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County Hall, Carmarthen. SA31 1JP

MONDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2016

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

I HEREBY SUMMON YOU TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE **EXECUTIVE BOARD** WHICH WILL BE HELD IN THE **CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL AT 10.00 AM, ON MONDAY, 17TH OCTOBER, 2016** FOR THE TRANSACTION OF THE BUSINESS OUTLINED ON THE ATTACHED AGENDA

Mark James

CHIEF EXECUTIVE



PLEASE RECYCLE

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EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERSHIP 10 MEMBERS

Councillor	Portfolio
Councillor Emlyn Dole	Leader (Plaid Cymru) Corporate Leadership and Strategy; Chair of Executive Board; Represents Council at WLGA; Political Advocate for Council; Appoints Executive Board Members; Determines EBM Portfolios; Liaises with Chief Executive
Councillor David Jenkins	Deputy Leader - Resources (Plaid Cymru) Finance & Budget; ICT; Property / Asset Management; Procurement; Housing Benefits; Revenues; Armed Forces Champion; and Chairs Executive Board in Leader's absence
Councillor Pam Palmer	Deputy Leader - Communities (Independent) Council Business Manager; Community Champion; Customer Focus & Policy, Police Liaison; Community Safety; Social Justice / Crime & Disorder Community Planning; Anti-Poverty Champion; Sustainability; Bio-diversity; Youth Ambassador; Rural Affairs and Chairs Executive Board in Leader's absence
Councillor Hazel Evans	Technical Services (Plaid Cymru) Refuse; Street Cleansing; Transport Services; Grounds Maintenance; Building Services; Catering Services; Caretaking; Building Cleaning; Transport Services; Emergency Planning; Flooding
Councillor Linda Evans	Housing (Plaid Cymru) Housing – Public; Housing – Private; Equalities; Older People
Councillor Meryl Gravell	Regeneration & Leisure (Independent) Economic Development; West Wales European Centre; Community Development; Sports; Leisure Centres; Museums; Libraries; Country Park
Councillor Gareth Jones	Education and Children (Plaid Cymru) Schools; Children Services; Special Education Needs; Safeguarding; Respite Homes; Regional Integrated School Improvement Service; Adult Community Learning; Youth Services; Lead Member for Children and Young People; Eisteddfod Ambassador
Councillor Jim Jones	Environmental & Public Protection (Independent) Environmental Enforcement; Litter; Unlicensed Waste; Dog Fouling; Parking Services; Trading Standards; Environmental Health.
Councillor Mair Stephens	Human Resources, Efficiencies & Collaboration (Independent) Human Resources; Training; Simpson Compact; Priority Based Budgeting (PPB); Corporate Efficiencies; Welsh Language Champion; Town and Community Councils Ambassador.
Councillor Jane Tremlett	Social Care & Health (Independent) Adult Social Services; Residential Care; Home Care; Learning Disabilities; Mental Health; NHS Liaison/Collaboration/ Integration; Carers' Champion; Disability Ambassador; Dementia Care Champion; 50+ Champion.

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.
2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST.
3. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD HELD ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:-
 - 3 .1 26TH JULY 2016; 5 - 62
 - 3 .2 19TH SEPTEMBER 2016. 63 - 66
4. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BY MEMBERS
5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
6. KERBSIDE GREEN WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE. 67 - 84
7. AFFORDABLE HOMES NEW BUILD PROGRAMME PHASE 1 2016-2017. 85 - 108
8. CARMARTHENSHIRE 11-19 CURRICULUM REVIEW. 109 - 178
9. STRATEGY TO PROMOTE THE WELSH LANGUAGE. 179 - 214
10. TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT 1ST APRIL 2016 TO 30TH JUNE 2016. 215 - 230
11. REVIEW OF NUMBER OF COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS REPRESENTING THE PONTYATES WARD AND LLANGYNDEYRN WARD OF LLANGYNDERYN COMMUNITY COUNCIL. 231 - 240
12. THE 2018 REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES IN WALES - INITIAL PROPOSALS. 241 - 336
13. DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE SERVICE DELIVERY MODELS IN ADULT SOCIAL CARE SERVICES - PROJECT UPDATE. 337 - 342
14. ANY OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT BY REASONS OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE CHAIR DECIDES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY PURSUANT TO SECTION 100B(4)(B) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972.

TUESDAY, 26TH JULY, 2016

PRESENT: Councillor E. Dole [Chair]

Councillors:

H.A.L. Evans, L.D. Evans, M. Gravell, D.M. Jenkins, G.O. Jones, T.J. Jones, P.A. Palmer, L.M. Stephens and J. Tremlett

Present in respect of Minute No. 8:

Councillor A.P. Cooper, Chair of the Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee

Present as observers:

Councillors S.M. Caiach, D.M. Cundy, T. Devichand, J.S. Edmunds, W.G. Hopkins, P. Hughes-Griffiths, B.A.L. Roberts, G. Thomas and J. Williams.

The following Officers were in attendance:

Mr M. James	-	Chief Executive
Mr C. Moore	-	Director of Corporate Services
Mr J. Morgan	-	Director of Community Services
Ms R. Mullen	-	Director of Environment
Mr R. Sully	-	Director of Education & Children
Mr P. Thomas	-	Assistant Chief Executive
Ms W. Walters	-	Assistant Chief Executive
Mr I. Jones	-	Head of Leisure
Mr S. Pilliner	-	Head of Transport & Engineering
Ms L. Rees Jones	-	Head of Administration & Law
Mr G. Morgans	-	Chief Education Officer
Mr S. Davies	-	School Modernisation Manager
Mrs D. Hockenhull	-	Media & Marketing Manager
Mr I. Llewellyn	-	Forward Planning Manager
Mr G. Williams	-	Assistant Solicitor
Mrs M. Evans Thomas	-	Principal Democratic Services Officer
Mr M. Hughes	-	Democratic Services Officer

Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen : 10.00 a.m. - 12.50 p.m. and 1.50 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

Councillor	Minute No.	Nature of Interest
Councillor L.D. Evans	19 – Model Time off Policy for Schools	Her daughter teaches in the county.
Councillor G.O. Jones	19 – Model Time off Policy for Schools	His wife teaches in the county.

Councillor J. Tremlett	23 – Proposed New Public Car Park, King Street, Laugharne	She owns property on King Street, Laugharne.
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3. MINUTES

3.1. 20TH JUNE, 2016

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Board held on the 20th June, 2016 be signed as a correct record.

3.2. 4TH JULY, 2016

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Board held on the 4th July, 2016 be signed as a correct record.

4. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BY MEMBERS

The Chair advised that no questions on notice had been submitted by members. However, he had received notification from Councillors D.M. Cundy, T. Devichand and J.S. Edmunds that they would like to ask questions in relation to agenda item 7 and these would be addressed under the appropriate item later in the meeting.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

5.1. QUESTION BY MRS KAREN HUGHES TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

“There have been a number of failures on the consultation process with the headmaster admitting on the 26th April that they had been naive about the consultation process. We have received correspondence confirming the school were aware of a proposal from the LEA in September 2014, followed by a proposal letter in January 2015 to the school which makes reference to 5 issues which were agreed as a package which had to be taken as a whole. With the insistence that the package must be accepted by the governors and LEA as a whole and already accepted in February 2015 it does make us wonder if this was already a ‘done deal’. Why wasn’t this made public to all stakeholders in September 2014 showing openness and transparency?”

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

“The consultation process has been conducted in compliance with the statutory School Organisation Code. The Education and Children’s Services Department has been in discussion with the governing bodies of both schools for a few years regarding the potential for the current proposal and correspondence has been exchanged between the parties. The Department has shared correspondence on this issue with objectors, demonstrating openness and transparency. School governing bodies have statutory responsibility for their schools and discussions between the local authority and schools on proposals for change always commence with a

conversation with governing bodies. Discussions and consultations with other people and groups of people take place at the appropriate stages in the process in line with statutory expectations.

No final decision has yet been made on this proposal. Should the Executive Board resolve to proceed to the next stage in the process, through the publication of a statutory notice, there will be another opportunity for interested parties to make their representations, which will be fully considered before a final decision is made.

The correspondence exchanged between the Director of Education and Children's Services and the governing bodies was intended to establish an agreement between these parties on the principles of the proposal and how it could be implemented, whilst also addressing other separate factors, such as how restricted space in the infants school could be addressed and how planning gain funding available for the area could be usefully applied.

The Director's letter of the 29th January 2015 to the Chair of the Governing Body of Llangennech Infants School, copied to the Chair of the Governing Body of Llangennech Junior School, makes it clear that it will be necessary for the County Council to undertake a statutory process to constitute a new primary school in place of the current two separate schools, to extend the age range of the school and to establish the new school as a Welsh medium school and highlights the timing challenges for completing the statutory process.

The letter also refers to a commitment to provide an additional double mobile classroom to assist with space pressures at the infants school (this has now been done) and agrees to release planning gain money for investment in the schools, through agreement with the Department. The fact that the new modular building has already been installed at the school clearly establishes that this element is not connected to the statutory proposal.

Reference to a "package for the development of primary sector provision" in the Director's letter can, therefore, be clearly identified as seeking an agreement in principle.

The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan was formally adopted at the meeting of the Executive Board held on the 28th July 2014, with the minutes of this meeting being received by the County Council at its meeting held on the 10th September 2014. It is evidently, therefore, a matter of fact that the WESP is Council policy. The WESP sets out the broad strategy for language development within the education service. Where progress requires change at individual schools in terms of the proportion of the curriculum delivered through either language a statutory process will be required, involving a consultation on each specific proposal. This is what is happening at Llangennech currently."

Mrs Hughes asked the following supplementary question:-

"Do you agree that the consultation process has only paid lip service to people and there is no real care for the community at large or providing

for their needs?"

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

"I think I will be referring to some of the points you raised in the other answers that follow so if you are not happy with the answers that follow on, please come back to me and I'll get you an answer."

5.2. QUESTION BY MR STEVE HATTO TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

"We have exchanged extensive correspondence with CCC with one subject concerning safety risks involved when transporting pupils to alternative English Medium Schools. One of the main concerns is that families who are unable to drive would have to walk with small children in all weather conditions over 2 miles depending on where in Llangennech they live. They would have to cross a busy 40 mph road and three motorway slip roads to reach their designated school. However, LEAs outlook on this states: that it is parental choice not to enrol our children at Llangennech and therefore it is parental responsibility to transport their children to other schools. However, the English Medium is being withdrawn by the Local Education Authority. It is not parent's choice to remove children from Llangennech but is a course of action forced upon us to take our children to a suitable English Medium. Not every child is able to learn through the medium of Welsh due to various reasons. However, there are 170 surplus Welsh medium places available in the local area at Brynsierfel and Furnace. But the three alternative English medium schools Bryn, Bynea and Hendy are already over capacity. No regard has been given to the 91 houses being built in Hendy, the 700 plus houses planned for Pontardulais and also in Bynea. Surely this would have a major impact on the surrounding schools. Currently any family in Llangennech speaking either welsh or English can have their child taught in either of the official languages of Wales. Is it not the case that this choice of education at the local school is being removed and people requiring their child to be educated in one of the official languages will be discriminated against... If the English Medium is removed can you please explain how is this parental choice? And where will you provide alternative English Medium Education for our children?"

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

"The proposal of the Education and Children's Services Department is that future provision for all pupils in the new Llangennech Primary School should be through a Welsh medium designation, as happens successfully already in many schools across Carmarthenshire, and that local children should attend Llangennech school.

As is set out in the report to the Executive Board the proposal is consistent with national policy to expand Welsh medium education in order to develop increasing numbers of fully bilingual young people and to enable more children to benefit from the advantages of bilingualism, confirmed by evidence gathered through research internationally, also set out in the

report.

It is the County Council's preference that children attend their local school and the Department believes that a Welsh medium primary school in Llangennech will continue to offer high standards of education to children.

It is the Department's intention that all current pupils remain at Llangennech school and continue to receive their education through the current language arrangements until they leave for secondary school. The proposals will not, therefore, affect current pupils. The school will continue to provide sufficient support for all current pupils through the medium in which they currently receive their education so there is, consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school.

The County Council is obliged to facilitate parental preference only where this is consistent with the effective delivery of education and the efficient use of resources. No parent has a right to demand a place at any particular school for their child or children. School places are allocated on the basis of the Council's published admissions policy, which favours children attending their local or "designated" school. Children are admitted to a school other than their designated school upon application by parents when places are available and subject to the over-subscription criteria set out in the published admissions policy.

The County Council is not proposing alternatives to Llangennech school for local children. It is the Local Authority's desire that all current pupils remain at the school and that in the future local children attend their village school, receiving their education principally through the medium of Welsh, with English being taught as a subject in Key Stage 2 and used as a medium for instruction in some other lessons in the later years of the school.

Should parents elect to place their children in alternative schools they will do so in full consideration of all the factors that apply, including standards at alternative schools, transport implications, etc. If parents elect to place their children in alternative schools that are neither the designated nor nearest school these parents assume full responsibility for transporting their children to school.

It is the belief of the Department, based upon international evidence and local experience, that children benefit from a truly bilingual education, which provides wider skills development, such as cognitive ability, task understanding and flexibility, enhanced powers of concentration, etc, and that all children should receive these opportunities. Evidence demonstrates that true bilingualism can only be achieved in the local context though children receiving a Welsh medium education.

It is true that there are currently some surplus places at Ysgol Y Ffwrnes and Ysgol Brynsierfel. The new Ysgol y Ffwrnes was built to ensure adequate capacity to meet projections in the Llanelli area where demand for Welsh medium primary education has been increasing over recent years. It was fully recognised that the new Ysgol Ffwrnes would have surplus places at the point of opening but these would be taken up over a period of a few years.

Having regard to applications for school places for September 2016 the Department expects that there will be 400 children attending Ysgol Gymraeg Ffwrnes next year, compared to a school capacity of 480, with the early years classes at the school full or almost full, indicating that the school will be full in a few years time. At Ysgol Brynsierfel a total of 209 pupils are expected to be registered at the school in September, compared to a capacity of 243.

The Welsh Government expects local authorities to endeavour to manage surplus school places within a tolerance of 10% overall across all schools, accepting that figures at individual schools will vary as a consequence of a number of factors. The School Organisation Code notes that “some spare places are necessary to enable schools to cope with fluctuations in numbers of pupils”. The Welsh Government regards a single school as having excess surplus places if it has more than 25% of its places empty. Neither Ysgol y Ffwrnes nor Ysgol Brynsierfel fall into this category.

This Council’s school organisation proposals routinely consider future housing developments and the demand that these can produce for school places. The objective of the Council’s proposals for the Llangennech schools is that local children attend Llangennech school in future. The Council does not intend that any local child should seek a school place outside Llangennech, other than in the infrequent incidence of a specific additional learning need in which case the Council will work with parents to identify the most appropriate arrangement. It is for this reason that no reference is made in the Consultation document to potential housing development in Hendy or any other school area.

The County Council will continue to monitor demand for places at Hendy School, in particular with regard to new housing developments being built in the locality and will respond as appropriate. The Council’s Modernising Education Programme includes provision for investment at Hendy school in the medium term to expand and modernise the school’s premises and facilities and it should be possible to align this investment with a need to increase capacity, should that need arise.

The City and County of Swansea’s Local Development Plan (LDP) draft deposit is due to be published for consultation in the summer of 2016. This draft plan includes a significant allocation of over 700 residential units in Pontarddulais. Discussions with officers at the City and County of Swansea confirm that they are planning to develop schools within the community of Pontarddulais to meet all need arising from their LDP in due course, as required by the development timeline. This is a matter for Swansea local authority to resolve.”

Mr Hatto asked the following supplementary question:-

“If the parents of children currently in the school’s English stream decide that siblings need to be taught through the medium of English then they would need to be taken to a different school, possibly out of county. Any parent concerned could not be in two places at once. They would have to withdraw the elder child or children from Llangennech Community School

so that the school run is viable. Would the county then be liable for travel arrangements to the new school?"

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

"That would be a parental choice so we would not be liable for transport to the new school."

5.3. QUESTION BY MS JULIA REES TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

"From the information supplied by the LEA, it is clearly evident that the figures have been manipulated by individuals to bolster a particular scenario. There are 121 pupils in the school that do not live in Llangennech. But there are 96 children from the village travelling to other schools out of the area. 81 of them are attending an alternative English medium school. If the 81 children could attend their community school, the figures would then show more of a 50/50 demand for English and Welsh in the community of Llangennech. Parents who sought English medium education in the past at Llangennech have been turned away because the school was full. But this wasn't the case, as some parents proved during a tribunal, and who were then offered a place at Ysgol Llangennech. Why were English medium places refused when the capacity for English medium was half the capacity of Welsh classes? How can the school publicise its green credentials when it will support transporting a large number of pupils into and out of the village?"

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

The pupil figures presented in the Consultation Document are those in being at the time of the annual statutory pupil count in January 2015.

The latest figures for January 2016 are as follows:

Llangennech Infants School

The total number of pupils is 210, with 161 children residing within the catchment area and 49 pupils residing outside the catchment area.

Llangennech Junior School

The total number of pupils is 236, with 175 children residing within the catchment area and 61 pupils residing outside the catchment area.

Both Schools Combined

Aggregated together the totals for both schools are – the total number of pupils is 446, with 336, or 75%, living in the catchment area and 110 children, or 25%, living outside the catchment area.

In January 2016 there were 96 children living within the catchment area of the Llangennech schools attending other schools. Of these, 16 children attended Welsh medium schools, 7 attended dual stream schools and 73 attended English medium schools, with a significant number of 39 children, over half those leaving the catchment area, attending Bryn school. 3 of the children attended faith based schools.

It is relevant to note that due to the configuration of the catchment area of the Llangennech schools a significant number of children living in the south of the catchment area reside closer to other schools than they do to the Llangennech schools. Prominent among these is Bryn School which receives 39 pupils from the Llangennech catchment area who live in or close to Penllwyngwyn Road, Hendre Park, Harddfán, Bryn Uchaf and Pendderi Road and live much closer to this school.

The Llangennech schools are able to accommodate all children living within the catchment area. These children receive preference to children living outside the catchment area under the established admissions policies.

No children from within the Llangennech schools catchment area have been denied a place at Llangennech schools by the County Council as the statutory Admissions Authority.

The published Admissions Numbers for the Llangennech schools apply to the school as a whole and do not consider language choice. Children can only be admitted to the schools by the local authority as the statutory admissions body. Schools do not have the right to admit pupils themselves or to decline places. The County Council has not refused a place to any child residing within the catchment area, irrespective of language preference.

The movement of pupils between school catchment areas is a common circumstance across the county in both urban and rural areas.

Schools are categorised according to an assessment against a national framework set out by the Welsh Government. The framework takes into account the standards achieved by pupils, the attendance of pupils, the quality of leadership at the school and the school's capacity to improve. The categorisation framework does not take matters such as language designation or admissions arrangements into account."

Ms Rees asked the following supplementary question:-

"You state that no child has been refused at Llangennech School on the basis of language selection so please can you explain why both of my sons were refused places at Llangennech Infant School despite the English stream classes for their year being 29 places under capacity and the Welsh stream classes for their year being over capacity by 11 places. Yet their refusal letter stated that the English stream was "at capacity and that the addition of a further pupil to the current numbers would present severe difficulties for the school". How can this be construed as anything other than an intentional engineering of figures to favour Welsh medium inclusion over English medium?"

Response by Councillor G.O Jones, Executive Board Member for Education

& Children:-

“That is something I am not aware of and I will have to find out more about that and I will certainly investigate to see what is happening.”

5.4. QUESTION BY MRS MICHAELA BEDDOWS TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

“Special Educational Needs: No consideration has been given for children with special educational needs who are usually advised to only go in an English medium stream or the language of their home environment .Children with global delay struggle with one language let alone two, therefore by removing the dual stream it would exclude these children from attending the school. Children with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder really cannot cope with change in routine, so if they were to start then struggle in a Welsh Medium school and then have to move to an English Medium school that change would have a massive impact on them. Many children with learning difficulties, especially ASD feel very isolated even in a supported environment. If they were made to attend a school out of the area this would isolate them further from the community as a whole. How has this been overlooked and why has it not been addressed?”

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

“Carmarthenshire County Council’s policy is that all its schools should be inclusive, with children with additional learning needs being educated in a mainstream setting alongside their peers wherever possible. In the vast majority of cases this is achieved, with all children benefiting.

Whilst the system is designed to meet the needs of learners though an universal and inclusive approach for a small number of children with significant and complex additional needs this is not always possible and specialised provision offers a more appropriate learning setting.

In order to make sure that the needs of all learners are met the schools system in Carmarthenshire includes a range of provision for children with additional needs. A specialist school or unit offer education to children with the most profound or complex needs where a mainstream setting is either not suitable for the children’s needs or where parents prefer an alternative setting. Selected secondary and primary schools across the county include specialised units for children with particular needs, such as autism, sensory impairment or speech and language delay. The Education and Children’s Services Department provides specific additional support in schools wherever practicable so that as many children as possible remain in their local school. Whilst the Council’s preference is to meet the needs of all children in a mainstream setting wherever possible this is not always practicable.

All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their circumstances and a tailored support programme is provided according to need. Generally, an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages. It is important to assess and monitor progress in each or all of the languages that a child is using or learning, including sign and visually supported

communication systems required for some pupils, particularly as the stronger developed language can be used to support and build learning through a lesser developed language medium. Staff are required to differentiate the curriculum and make reasonable adjustments to the language of instruction and response in order to accommodate additional needs and ensure access to the curriculum and learning progress. At times it may be appropriate to target additional support in one language for a period to consolidate and accelerate learning, e.g. in literacy. There will be rare instances, however, where a child may be diagnosed with a condition that is not conducive to a fully bilingual education. In these circumstances a package of support is identified by professional practitioners and discussed with parents. Arrangements are made for the child to attend an appropriate school where their needs can be met. It may be the case that on a small number of occasions the needs of an individual child cannot be met at the local school as, notwithstanding the Council's commitment to inclusive education, it is simply not practicable to meet all needs at every school. In the last five years the Educational and Child Psychology Service has been involved in only one or two cases each year where a move of school has been advised. To place this into context, Carmarthenshire's school system serves around 27,000 pupils in total and so the frequency of pupil movement for additional learning needs is very low indeed.

It is this Council's experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and abilities are successful in our schools irrespective of the language of instruction but the Council does acknowledge that there will be a very few children whose needs cannot be met other than through provision at a specialist unit.

For the Llangennech proposal the support provided to children currently in the schools with additional needs will continue through the medium in which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive this support mainly through the medium of Welsh, with appropriate adjustments being made to meet pupils' individual additional needs."

Mrs Beddows asked the following supplementary question:-

"As it now seems the Council's policy of enforcement of the Welsh language, is it also now the Council's policy that inclusion for children with special educational needs in Llangennech, it only seems that this is offered through the medium of Welsh for children that are Welsh speaking. So children who need an English education are going to be sent to special units or special schools needlessly, out of their community school, simply because of a language barrier."

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

"I refer back to part of my answer. At times it may be appropriate to target additional support in one language for a period to consolidate and accelerate the learning. There will be rare instances, however, where a child may be diagnosed with a condition that is not conducive to a fully bilingual education. Can I emphasise the word rare there."

5.5. QUESTION BY MR KARL HARRIES TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION &

CHILDREN

The Chair advised that Mr Harries was unable to attend today's meeting and had requested him to ask the question on his behalf.

"I am a parent of 3 former pupils and grandfather of two current pupils at Llangennech School, one of whom was nonverbal at age 4 and has learning disabilities. All of my children attended Llangennech School through the Welsh medium. My wife and I being non Welsh speakers watched them struggle and were unable to help them. This left us with a feeling of helplessness that we would not wish upon any parent let alone a parent of a child with learning disabilities. This in itself is a very stressful and demanding task without the addition of a language barrier. I would like to ask if actual proof and not conjecture and the constant use of the word belief can be provided in order to substantiate claims which state that Welsh medium education is as successful if not more successful than English medium education for children who have a learning disability? With emphasis placed upon children with significant learning disabilities, nonverbal children and moreover children with disabilities from non Welsh speaking homes."

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

I am sorry to learn of Mr Harries experiences with his children and grand children at school in Llangennech and I very much hope that their circumstances are by now much improved. I am advised, however, by the Council's professional officers that Mr Harries' family's experience is not typical of the position across schools in Carmarthenshire. It is always difficult to generalise when considering the circumstances of children with a physical or learning disability as the needs of an individual child can be very specific.

It is also difficult to present absolute proof as requested by Mr Harries as we are not at liberty to make public the circumstances of individual children and so we have to rely upon generalisations in a debate such as this, accepting that there is always likely to be an exception that can be pointed to.

I can say to Mr Harries and others that the general comments that I am able to offer draw upon the advice of experienced professionals. I can also say with complete confidence that I have witnessed at first hand the dedication of our officers who support children with additional needs and the care that our officers exercise towards them.

Generally, an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages. It is important to assess and monitor progress in each or all of the languages that a child is using or learning, including sign and visually supported communication systems required for some pupils, particularly as the stronger developed language can be used to support and build learning through a lesser developed language medium.

School based staff and peripatetic staff are required to differentiate the curriculum and make reasonable adjustments to the language of instruction and response in order to accommodate additional needs and ensure access to the curriculum and learning progress. At times it may be appropriate to target additional support in one language for a period to consolidate and accelerate learning, e.g. in literacy.

There will be rare instances, however, where a child may be diagnosed with a condition that is not conducive to a fully bilingual education. In these circumstances a package of support will be identified by professional practitioners and discussed with parents. Arrangements are made for the child to attend an appropriate school where their needs can be met. It may be the case that on a small number of occasions the needs of an individual child cannot be met at the local school as, notwithstanding the Council's commitment to inclusive education, it is simply not practicable to meet all needs at every school.

In the last five years the Educational and Child Psychology Service has been involved in only one or two cases each year where a move of school has been advised. To place this into context, Carmarthenshire's school system serves around 27,000 pupils in total and so the frequency of pupil movement for additional learning needs is very low indeed.

In conclusion I can only repeat that I am sorry that Mr Harries feels that this approach has not succeeded sufficiently well in the case of his family."

5.6. QUESTION BY MR DARREN SEWARD TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

"You have stated that as an Authority you are endeavouring to increase the number of bilingual pupils within Carmarthenshire and have developed a policy in order to delivery this strategy. We contacted Mr. Sully on the 29th June requesting information as to which schools had already gone through this process prior to Llangennech and which were the ones programmed to follow the initiative after Llangennech. In his response Mr. Sully stated that, I quote, 'The situation at other schools has no bearing on the proposal for Llangennech'. Can you please outline that the imposition of Welsh Medium education at Llangennech is part of a wider policy strategy being pursued by the Authority?"

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

The proposal for the schools in Llangennech is consistent with the County Council's strategic programme to expand Welsh medium education and the development of bilingual young people across the county of Carmarthenshire, as set out in the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP).

Carmarthenshire County Council has a statutory responsibility under Part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for its area with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, for improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh.

In April 2014 the County Council formally adopted a comprehensive strategy for the development of the Welsh language in Carmarthenshire, endorsing the recommendations of a politically balanced group of elected members that had examined in depth the status of the Welsh language in the county in the wake of the 2011 census of the population. The strategy requires action on 73 points, 21 of which apply to the education service. All relevant recommendations and actions from the strategy have been incorporated within Carmarthenshire's WESP.

The Plan seeks to achieve the following specific outcomes relevant to the Llangennech schools proposal:

- *To increase the number of 7 year old learners who are educated through the medium of Welsh.*
- *More learners continue to improve their language skills as they move from primary to secondary school.*
- *More students have higher language skills in Welsh.*

It also sets out to achieve the specified outcomes and aims by means of the following actions:

- *The County Council works closely with the staff and governing bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh schools.*
- *Target three dual stream schools to transfer to being Welsh medium by 2017.*

It is important to note that the WESP requires all primary schools in Carmarthenshire, including English medium schools, to move along the language continuum, progressively expanding the proportion of education that is delivered through the medium of Welsh, with a view to ensuring that in time all children leaving primary school are fully bilingual.

The pace at which schools will be able to expand bilingualism and Welsh medium education will depend upon local circumstances but the expectation for progress applies to all schools. The schools in Llangennech have been identified as having the potential to move quickly to become Welsh medium due to the progressive increase in numbers in the Welsh stream over recent years, as evidenced by the data. Furthermore, standards across both schools have been consistently good, demonstrating that the children are succeeding well in all subjects and are able to thrive through a Welsh medium education.

Mr Seward asked the following supplementary question:-

“Can you please advise us of which schools have already undergone the immersion programme and which ones are due to follow the same process and for these when are they planned exactly to be done?”

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

“Unfortunately, I cannot discuss what other individual schools are doing, it is down to their Governing Bodies and I am not in contact with those Governing Bodies at present.”

5.7. QUESTION BY MS NIKKI LLOYD TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

The Chair advised that Ms Lloyd was unable to attend today's meeting and had

requested him to ask her question on her behalf.

“Change for a community or organisation is generally seen as a good thing. Change for change sake is seen as counter-productive. Change based on no demand is to be avoided at all costs. Following a recent FOI request regarding the supply and demand of Welsh books within the library at Llangennech we have been advised the following.

English Books 5,186 stocked - 13,909 lent within the year = over twice the demand of stock.

Welsh Books 531 stocked 10% of English Stock - 414 lent within the year = under demand on availability.

Total books lent = 14,440 Welsh lent = 2.8% of all books

From this relatively simple piece of research that not only are you attempting to socially engineer a change within the school but through your actions are attempting to socially engineer a community which has no demand or leaning towards a pure Welsh approach. Do you agree?”

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

“Whilst the proposals for change at the Llangennech schools are primarily aimed at securing enhanced educational outcomes for children a consequential benefit could be the increased use of the Welsh language in the community over time. In the view of the County Council this would be a welcome outcome.”

5.8. QUESTION BY MR NIGEL HUGHES TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

“Parents have been subjected to many contradictions regarding the languages taught in reception classes leaving them confused and distressed at the impact this situation might be having on their children. Gareth Jones has recently made a statement refuting the claims that 'Llangennech Infant's School has acted illegally in terms of language provision in the foundation phase.' He goes on to state that 'The County wishes to reassure all parents that this allegation is completely untrue. Provision at the school is entirely appropriate and the school wishes to perform to high standards with pupils achieving good outcomes.' It is interesting to note that this statement does not actually elucidate anything...but adds to the confusion.

Mr Rob Sully stated in the Scrutiny meeting of the 23rd May 2015 that Reception Classes were Welsh, but teachers at the new parents meeting held a couple of weeks ago were told it is taught in English Welsh English.

Carmarthenshire County Council have also stated that reception class are Welsh learning to some parents who have contacted them. The children's homework and reading books are completely in Welsh.

We are concerned that figures have been engineered and English Stream was not naturally declining but hurdles placed in parent's way to achieve the Welsh

Medium goal. Were the Local Authority aware about the false information being provided to parents about the reception classes and the differing views and also confirm the date it changed to Welsh, who proposed it and how was it communicated to affected persons such as parents?"

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

*"I stand by the statement I made to the press a few weeks ago, to which Mr Hughes refers, on arrangements within the infants' school. I also consider that the content of my statement is very clear. My statement declared that "Llangennech Infants School has **not** acted illegally", rather than what is presented in the written question. The present arrangements in the school are that all pupils in the reception classes are taught principally through the medium of Welsh, with English used as a facilitator according to the needs of individual children. Parents of pupils in Year 1 and Year 2 classes presently have the option to place their children in either the Welsh stream or the English stream.*

These arrangements have been introduced through discussion between the school and parents. A Council officer was party to the discussions at the request of the school. As the initiative was progressed by the school I am not able to confirm the date on which the arrangements were introduced. All the data and figures used within the development of the proposal are factual. Neither I nor the Education and Children's Services Department are aware of any alleged false information being given to parents."

Mr Hughes asked the following supplementary question:-

"Who is going to be held accountable for this false advertisement which is seeing children leave the school now and the truth is emerging and the trust is lost?"

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

"I understand your concerns with the comments you made. I am not aware of the e-mail and will deal with that when I see the e-mail."

5.9. QUESTION BY MS KAZ DEACON TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

The Chair advised that Ms Deacon was unable to attend today's meeting and had requested that he ask the question on her behalf.

"On page 28 of the Consultation document it shows all children within Derbyn 1 and Derbyn 2 classes of Llangennech Infant School are in Welsh medium, please can you confirm the exact date the language category changed from bilingual to Welsh medium for these classes?"

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

"The arrangements to immerse children in the Welsh language in the reception (derbyn) classes have been introduced through discussion between the school

and parents, with some advice from a Council officer. As the initiative was progressed by the school I am not able to confirm the date on which the arrangements were introduced.”

5.10. QUESTION BY MR ROBERT WILLOCK TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

“On the programme week in week out Councillor Campbell said and I quote” Research shows over many years when you provide choice the numbers of Welsh medium decreases. So you have a dilemma if you provide choice fewer people opt for various reasons but with a level of compulsion you are giving young people those opportunities to be bilingual. Even though this level of compulsion or lack of choice contravenes article 2 of the first protocol to the European convention on human rights. Do you agree with Councillor Campbell’s remarks?”

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

In making his comments as part of the television programme referred to by Mr Willock Councillor Campbell was expressing his personal views on this issue and in doing so I expect that he was drawing upon his experience as a professional language and educational consultant, with knowledge of the situation across Wales.

Our experience here in Carmarthenshire has been that over recent years the number and proportion of parents preferring a Welsh medium education has been increasing. This is evidenced by the data and, indeed, reflects the situation in the Llangennech schools where the number and proportion of children in the Welsh language stream has been increasing whilst the numbers and proportion in the English language stream have been decreasing.

I am advised that the Council’s proposals in this matter do not in any way contravene European or domestic law.

It is my view that choice is an important issue in the consideration of this proposal with the most important aspect of choice being that which is available to children as they progress through their education and early lives. The Council’s proposal to develop bilingual children by the time they leave primary school gives children a choice as they move forward to secondary school. The most effective way of developing bilingual children in the primary sector is to immerse them in Welsh medium education. It is generally accepted in the education profession that studying Welsh as a second language does not develop truly bilingual young people.”

Mr Willock asked the following supplementary question:-

“Is the Executive Board Member entering this meeting with a blind eye and a closed mind?”

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

“Certainly not, that is why I’m here this morning to answer your questions and to be as honest as I possibly can about them.”

5.11. QUESTION BY MR DEAN BOLGIANI TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

“Following on from the potential benefits of bilingualism which have been highlighted such as health and educational achievements but Llangennech is a green flagged, bilingual school. Surely the local authorities’ efforts should be focused upon increasing Welsh within English Medium schools and possibly making them Dual Stream. This would increase and promote bilingualism in its truer sense whilst also giving parents increased choices. This type of strategy would capture a larger percentage of the Carmarthenshire school population and is a unifying approach as opposed to divisive. Can you explain why Llangennech is being targeted under new policy?”

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

“Carmarthenshire County Council has a statutory responsibility under Part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for its area with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, for improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh. The Council is required to set targets for the aims.

Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017 has been approved by the Welsh Government in accordance with the requirements of the Act. The Plan seeks to achieve the following specific outcomes relevant to the Llangennech schools proposal:

- To increase the number of 7 year old learners who are educated through the medium of Welsh.*
- More learners continue to improve their language skills as they move from primary to secondary school.*
- More students have higher language skills in Welsh.*

The Plan also includes the following aim:

- Increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in Welsh and English.*

The Plan sets out to achieve the specified outcomes and aims by means of a number of actions, including the following:

- The County Council works closely with the staff and governing bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh schools.*
- Target three dual stream schools to transfer to being Welsh medium by 2017.*

It is important to note that the WESP requires all primary schools in Carmarthenshire, including English medium schools, to move along the language continuum, progressively expanding the proportion of education that is delivered through the medium of Welsh, with a view to ensuring that in time all children leaving primary school are fully bilingual.

The schools at Llangennech have been identified as having the potential to move quickly along the language continuum. Over recent years the number of children in the Welsh language stream has increased progressively whilst the number in the English language stream has been decreasing, so the move to Welsh language provision across the school is a natural progression. Standards across both schools have been consistently good, demonstrating that the children are succeeding well in all subjects and are able to thrive through a Welsh medium education.”

Mr Bolgiani asked the following supplementary question:-

“Are these potential learners and Welsh as a second language learners not of value in promoting and supporting the Welsh language and have they been taken into account as part of a Welsh Language Impact Assessment?”

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children

“English is not being taken away from the Llangennech School, it will be taught as a subject to a very, very high standard and that is what happens in these schools. Certainly English will be a major factor in the school as well and it will also be used to teach and support in other subjects.”

5.12. QUESTION BY MS ORLA WILLIAMS TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

“International studies have shown that only inclusive equal status of dual languages actually increase use of both languages into young adulthood. Current CCC and WG policy of excluding non-Welsh speaking families is not cost effective and does not positively promote the Welsh language. Are the Council aware that a high percentage of those leaving the dual English and Welsh stream in Llangennech go on to do well at GCSE Welsh and continue studying Welsh or chosen subjects through the medium of Welsh in Bryngwyn and Coleg Sir Gar?”

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

“International evidence, cited by the Welsh Government in its published documentation, confirms that the most effective way of developing bilingual children is to immerse them in the less common language whilst also developing their skills in the more common language. The Welsh Government also promotes that for children who are from non-Welsh speaking families that immersion in Welsh in school is particularly important in embedding the language.

The Council is aware that some children from Llangennech Junior School have

chosen to attend secondary schools such as Bryngwyn, which although not categorised as a Welsh medium school has been expanding its Welsh medium provision to offer increased choice to learners. The County Council commends Bryngwyn school for its progressive attitude towards language choice and it actively encouraging other secondary schools to introduce similar programmes.

The important point of note in this regard is that children in the Llangennech schools who have studied though the Welsh language have a choice as they move into secondary school with regard to the proportion of their secondary education that they follow in either the Welsh or English languages. If they had not followed their primary education predominantly through the medium of Welsh they would not have this choice.

Pupils from the English language stream will have followed a Welsh second language programme up to GCSE level and most will have secured a qualification in this subject. It is now widely accepted in education circles that studying Welsh second language does not develop truly bilingual young people. In fact the curriculum reform underway currently across Wales recognises this and new standards Welsh language competencies are set to be developed over the coming few years."

Ms Williams asked the following supplementary question:-

"If Carmarthenshire County Council is truly interested in increasing the use of Welsh in an inclusive way, bringing in non-Welsh speaking families, wouldn't you have developed clear strategies that would develop beyond the age of 11 and that would have impact to increase the number of Welsh speakers, such as myself?"

.....
Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

"There is a policy for secondary schools as well. That is being developed and Bryngwyn is a prime example and other schools in Llanelli are following on in the same way as well."

.....

5.13. QUESTION BY MS SARAH MARTIN TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

The Chair advised that Ms Martin was unable to attend today's meeting and had requested that he ask her question on her behalf.

"On P138 of the consultation report the summary/conclusion from Estyn's states "In Estyn's opinion, the proposal to merge the two schools is likely to maintain the current educational standards. However, the proposal does not provide sufficient detail about the alternative options and arrangements available to those pupils who may choose to follow their education through the medium of English should the English stream at Llangennech close". The report time and time again cites it will be a parent's choice to send the child elsewhere yet there will be no coverage of cost and alternative English provision is deemed to be full. The local government response to Estyn on p140 also concurs stating "...the proposer does not give sufficient consideration to the effect of ending English medium provision on the pupils who may wish to follow their education through their medium of

English". Although current students are considered what viable alternatives are there for future students who do not wish to follow a Welsh education and how can the council justify a proposal that is not backed by both Estyn and local government?"

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

"The County Council has acknowledged the comments made by Estyn and responded within the Consultation Report by noting the Council's desire that all local children will attend the local school in Llangennech. Should, however, some parents elect to place their children elsewhere the Council has identified possible options of alternative schools at which parents could apply for places. These are examples of adjacent alternative schools but there are others available. In responding to a school organisation proposal Estyn will neither support nor oppose a proposal. They will express a view on their interpretation of the impact of a proposal on provision for children. Crucially in this regard Estyn declare their opinion that "the proposal to merge the two schools is likely to maintain the current educational standards". Given that standards in both current schools are good this opinion from Estyn should be reassuring for parents. The narrative on page 140 of the Consultation Document which refers to "the Local Government Response" is actually the response of this local authority, Carmarthenshire County Council, to the comments made by Estyn in their submission which require further clarification. I apologise if this was not entirely clear."

5.14. QUESTION BY MRS LAURA PEARCE TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

The Chair advised that Mrs Pearce was unable to attend today's meeting and had requested that he ask her question on her behalf.

"During the last meeting it was clear that the committee / chair understands the many benefits of bilingualism from an early age and how a dual stream school offers this and indeed this was repeatedly referred too. To be very clear, Llangennech School is currently a dual stream school offering bilingualism to children from both English and Welsh families locally in a close knit community. Three of my children have been through or are in the English stream and 2 are in the Welsh stream, this choice has been fundamentally important depending on them as individuals (none have special needs). My question regarding this is quite simply, how can it possibly be a benefit to remove one language (The English language) from a dual stream (bilingual) school - how is one language (Welsh) better than two (Welsh and English) when the very essence of bilingualism is 2 languages?"

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

"The County Council's strategy is founded upon the understanding that schools are a critically important component in developing children so that they are fully bilingual by the time they leave primary school. International evidence, cited by the Welsh Government in its published documentation, confirms that the most effective way of developing bilingual children is to immerse them in the less

common language whilst also developing their skills in the more common language. The Welsh Government also promotes that for children who are from non-Welsh speaking families that immersion in Welsh in school is particularly important in embedding the language.

It also important to note that within a Welsh medium education children also have their English language skills developed.

Furthermore, the evidence of recent years at the Llangennech schools is that children in the Welsh language stream achieve good standards in both the English and Welsh languages. Children in the English language stream, however, do not achieve equally high skills in the Welsh language as they follow a Welsh second language programme.

The evidence also confirms that children in the Welsh language stream from non-Welsh speaking homes achieve consistently good outcomes in all subjects, including the English language”.

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5.15. QUESTION BY MRS MAUREEN JONES TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

The Chair advised that Mrs Jones was unable to attend today’s meeting and had requested that he ask her question on her behalf.

“I am a former pupil of Ysgol Llangennech, my sisters, my daughter, my grandchildren and great grandchildren have attended, or are currently attending Llangennech schools.

Could I please ask why, after over 60 years of successful bilingual education taught through the medium of English and Welsh, many years of excellent reports, and a proven record, that Carmarthenshire County Council feels the need to split a close community, with the school at its heart, and alienate those who choose, often for social, personal, or disability reasons, English medium education for their children, and promote single stream education.”

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

“The County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) seeks to secure the benefits of bilingualism for all children in Carmarthenshire. The WESP is founded upon the policy framework laid down by the Welsh Government, which draws up evidence from international research on the educational benefits of bilingualism, which can include the strengthening of cognitive skills, increased mental agility, enhanced powers of concentration and an ability to focus on a range of tasks, blocking out potential distractions. Beyond education, research in Canada suggests that bilingualism can help delay the onset of dementia symptoms. I expect that it will increasingly become the case that young people in Wales who are bilingual will have broader career prospects than their monolingual peers. Being bilingual or multilingual also broadens individuals’ cultural experiences and can enhance career prospects.

International evidence, cited by the Welsh Government in its published

documents, confirms that the most effective way of developing bilingual children is to immerse them in the less common language whilst also developing their skills in the more common language. The Welsh Government also promotes that for children who are from non-Welsh speaking families that immersion in Welsh in school is particularly important in embedding the language. It is my belief that every child should receive the opportunity to develop as a fully bilingual young person within the local education system so that their life opportunities are maximised and that the most effective way to achieve this is through Welsh medium education in the primary phase.”

5.16. QUESTION BY MS SALLY ANN THOMAS TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

“In this climate of austerity, cutbacks and uncertainty, why is CCC spending so much time, money and valuable resources on FIXING a school that is NOT BROKEN? Llangennech is a very successful green, bilingual, dual stream school, whose motto is "Education for ALL". Wouldn't this valuable money and resources be better spent on yellow and amber English medium schools to strive for them to achieve a high standard of bilingual dual stream education like Llangennech?”

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

“The County Council is promoting the current proposal for primary education in Llangennech as it firmly believes that this is in the best interests of children's education. The Llangennech schools are, indeed, very successful and the proposal seeks to improve even further the opportunity for children attending the schools to secure continually improving outcomes. Generally speaking it is more expensive to operate a dual stream school than a monolingual school so should the proposal succeed it will deliver greater financial efficiency over time.”

5.17. QUESTION BY MRS EMMA LOMAS TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

“Following the report provided by Carmarthenshire County Council regarding the responses from the consultation process we have been approached by several parents stating that their proforma's were not included in the document, even though they had been submitted and receipts received. From the responses received it would appear that there is strong support for keeping the dual stream with a total of 154 recognised responses as well as a signed petition of 505 signatories (which has already been submitted). The against group have been open in sharing their names and relationship to the school whilst the for campaigners have continued with the clandestine approach of not wishing to be named with over 30 anonymous entries. Many of the pro change consultees were past teachers, councillors, head teachers and current staff. It was suggested that the responses were relatively equal with for and against. The total number of those against compared to those for is a ratio of 5:1. How is this considered to be equal when the consultees for supporting the change do not appear to include many parental opinions and a vast number of those against the change do not appear to have been included?”

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

“The Consultation Report included within the papers before the Executive Board includes all submissions received by the Education and Children’s Services Department by the extended date for the closure of the consultation period on the 18th March 2016. The Department has checked all the submissions received and is able to confirm this position, whilst noting that three respondents expressed their desire that their comments are not made public. Accordingly these three responses have been discounted for the purposes of the Consultation Report.

The original closure date for the submission of responses, set in accordance with the School Organisation Code, was the 11th March 2016 but at the request of some people the Director of Education and Children’s Services agreed to extend the consultation period by one week to the 18th March to allow all interested parties ample time to submit their views. A considerable exchange of correspondence has continued with various interested parties after the closure of the consultation period but in order to ensure compliance with the School Organisation Code and to ensure that all parties are treated equitably and consistently only submissions received by the 18th March have been included in the Consultation Report.

The decision on whether or not to proceed with the proposal must, by virtue of the law, be made on the grounds of the best interests of learners. It is, therefore, the educational merits that must be the determining factor in decision making, rather than the number of responses received either in favour of or against the proposal. All persons or organisations have a right to express their views, irrespective of their individual status. Should any person or organisation consider that they have made a submission by the 18th March 2016 and it has not been included in the Consultation Report they are invited to formally write to the Department setting out the details and providing evidence of their submission.

Should the proposal proceed to the next stage of the statutory process all interested parties will have a further opportunity to make representations to the County Council following the publication of a statutory notice before a final decision is made.”

Mrs Lomas asked the following supplementary question:-

“In a just and fair society trust is fostered by transparency and openness. How can this process be deemed transparent and open when so much evidence points to the manipulation of statistics and the misleading of parents by those entrusted with the care of their children.”

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children

“I understand your comments but everything is as open and transparent as it possibly can be.”

5.18. QUESTION BY MRS JACQUELINE SEWARD TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

"It is acknowledged that the Welsh Assembly led by the Labour Government has set out a vision to increase the Welsh language in Wales across various aspects of life. The Assembly has confirmed in writing that no targets have been given regarding the Welsh language so how this is implemented is at the discretion of each Local Authority. For example, the Counties of South Wales such as Neath Port Talbot, Swansea, Cardiff each have a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan that aim to increase Welsh without using authoritarian approaches. We are not aware of any headline deliverables within any political manifesto to forcibly change the existing language choices at primary schools within the County without consideration for the preferences of choice of parents and the community being taken into account. Can you please advise under what mandate and promises made to the electorate by members is this initiative is being undertaken?"

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

"Carmarthenshire County Council, like all other local authorities in Wales, has a statutory responsibility under Part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for its area with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, for improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh. The Council is required to set targets for the aims.

In April 2014 the County Council formally adopted a comprehensive strategy for the development of the Welsh language in Carmarthenshire, endorsing the recommendations of a politically balanced group of elected members that had examined in depth the status of the Welsh language in the county in the wake of the 2011 census of the population. The strategy requires action on 73 points, 21 of which apply to the education service. All relevant recommendations and actions from the strategy have been incorporated within Carmarthenshire's WESP. The language strategy received cross-party support from elected members when it was adopted at a meeting of the full County Council.

As is set out in the report to the Executive Board the proposal is consistent with national policy to expand Welsh medium education in order to develop increasing numbers of fully bilingual young people and to enable more children to benefit from the advantages of bilingualism, confirmed by evidence gathered through research internationally, also set out in the report.

The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan has been subject to public consultation during its preparation and subsequent review. Its contents have, therefore, been subject to a test of public opinion in line with statutory requirements."

Mrs Seward asked the following supplementary question:-

"Do Plaid Cymru advocate iron fisted policies over democratic ones and is their goal to eradicate English medium schools from the county?"

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

"I hear you mention Plaid Cymru there but it was a cross-party agreement and that

was agreed at County Council as well by everybody.”

5.19. QUESTION BY MRS KATE WARNER TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

“In complying with the Schools Standards & Organisation Wales Act (2013), the Welsh Government directed every Local Education Authority in Wales to produce a 'Welsh in Education Strategic Plan' to implement its policy of expanding Welsh medium education. Carmarthenshire County Council complied with the Government's directive and produced the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan which was approved by the Welsh Government.

If the proposal for Llangennech School is not implemented, surely the Council would not be then complying with the Welsh Government's approved 'Welsh in Education Strategic Plan' for Carmarthenshire. Is this interpretation correct?”

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

“The interpretation offered by Mrs Warner is, in my opinion, fair and reasonable. This County Council has clearly declared its strategic intention to develop Welsh medium education within its published Welsh in Education Strategic Plan, which has been subject to public consultation during its preparation and subsequent review. The WESP is a matter of formal Council policy and the proposal for the schools in Llangennech is founded upon this policy.”

5.20. QUESTION BY MRS ELIN GRIFFITHS TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

“Bilingualism offers many benefits and research shows that children who understand more than one language have the ability to think more flexibly and creatively. Two languages can offer economic benefits when searching for a job in the future, it enables communication with a wider range of people, the ability to experience two different cultures and gives people the opportunity to be part of all aspects of social life. Does the Executive Board agree that no child should be at a disadvantage, educationally, socially or economically, therefore by agreeing that Llangennech Infant and Junior schools continue along the language continuum, assurance will be given that each child will enjoy the same benefits?”

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

“I agree very much with the benefits of bilingualism as set out by Mrs Griffiths and agree wholeheartedly that every child should have the opportunity to access these opportunities. I also believe that the most effective way of securing these benefits for our children is through a Welsh medium education in primary school.”

5.21. QUESTION BY MR OWAIN GLENISTER TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

“Considering the pressure on Carmarthenshire County Council to respond to the Welsh Language Measure 2011, i.e. to provide core services through both languages, does the Executive Board consider that developing individuals with the ability to communicate effectively in two languages is essential as a long term strategy when trying to develop a workforce that can provide services through the medium of Welsh and English. If so, do you feel that this change to Ysgol Llangennech will give children better opportunities to develop into bilingual adults, and therefore more likely to secure a post in the public sector?”

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

“I agree with Mr Glenister that the proposals for the Llangennech schools, founded upon the objectives set out in the County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan, will support learners in not only developing their language skills in English and Welsh but in their broader education and personal development also.

The new language standards that apply currently to all councils in Wales, and will in time apply across the public sector, introduce additional service provision demands which will require greater numbers of people with high level Welsh language skills. It seems inevitable, therefore, that young people who are fully bilingual will be better placed in the jobs market than their monolingual peers and stand to have strengthened career prospects by comparison.”

Mr Glenister asked the following supplementary question:-

“Considering the recent report by Donaldson along with the fact that a high number of national statistics prove without a doubt that bilingualism is of benefit, is it timely therefore to consider that Welsh education is not only a way towards bilingualism but is also an effective way of strengthening understanding of our culture and heritage.”

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

“The Donaldson report will be essential to the development of education over the next decade. I hope that we have the right leaders here in Carmarthenshire to lead on this. We have innovative schools already in place. And I think Carmarthenshire will lead on the Donaldson report in Wales. Welsh is integral part of the report.”

5.22. QUESTION BY MRS HELEN MAINWARING TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

“As Labour was leading the Council when the 'Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017' was announced in 2013, which stated the intention to change dual stream schools into Welsh schools, does the Labour Party's commitment to this policy remain the same, and can we have the same assurance, now that the Leadership of the Council has changed, that this Strategic Plan will continue to have the support of the Councillors and be implemented in the same way?”

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education

& Children:-

“The County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) was formally adopted at a meeting of the County Council on the 10th September 2014 and enjoyed cross party support.

The present administration of the County Council, a Plaid Cymru and Independent Group coalition, remains committed to the contents of the Plan and its implementation. The Executive Board does not include any Labour councillors presently.

As Executive Board Member for Education and Children’s Services, and a member of the Plaid Cymru Group, I am not able to speak on behalf of the members of the Labour Group of the Council.”

Mrs Mainwaring asked the following supplementary question:-

“Can you give us an assurance that his discussion will not be used for political purposes and that councillors will look at it based on the research and firm evidence in favour of the advantages of bilingualism and avoid the temptation to use it for political gain?”

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:

“I cannot guarantee that, only as far as Plaid Cymru is concerned, and I know that our party will be supportive.”

5.23. QUESTION BY MR HYWEL DAVIES TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

The Chair advised that Mr Davies was unable to attend today’s meeting and had requested that he ask his question on his behalf.

“Are members of the Executive Board aware of the fact that the Assembly has a cross-party commitment to create a bilingual Wales and that employers are increasingly looking for bilingual skills as recent legislation insists that public bodies must provide services in the language choice of the customer?”

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

“The County Council is aware of the Welsh Government’s policy framework for the Welsh language and the place of the Welsh language within education.

The Welsh Government has placed statutory duties upon all councils in Wales with respect to the Welsh language and it’s place within education. In response to this Carmarthenshire County Council has prepared its Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and has formally adopted it as policy. At the heart of the Plan is a programme to develop and expand Welsh medium education and the bilingual capabilities of school pupils.

The advent of the Welsh Language Standards for all councils in Wales, and in time the wider public sector, will increase the importance of bilingual skills for young people in the future and in my view those who possess these skills will have enhanced career prospects.”

5.24. QUESTION BY MRS CATHRIN JONES TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

“Have members of the Executive Board read the recent research in Canada that proves that bilingualism can have a positive impact on the brain in later life by keeping it alert and helping to reduce the possibility of suffering dementia?”

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

“I am aware of the research in Canada referred to as it is cited in the Welsh Government’s Welsh-medium Education Strategy (2010) and is often referred to in other international research on the topic of bilingualism.

There is consensus across a range of international research and evidence that bilingualism brings with it many educational advantages for individuals, including the strengthening of cognitive skills, increased mental agility, enhanced powers of concentration and an ability to focus on a range of tasks, blocking out potential distractions. Being bilingual or multilingual also broadens individuals’ cultural experiences and can enhance career prospects.”

5.25. QUESTION BY MR MARTYN WILLIAMS TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

“In Welsh medium and Dual stream schools, there is a specific emphasis on developing Welsh through immersion methods across all areas of learning of the Foundation Phase, whatever language the child speaks at home. The ‘Welsh in the Foundation Phase’ report by Estyn published in December 2013 states “that the standards in pupils’ language, literacy and communication skills are similar to those in English-medium schools and settings, and are line with the expected level at that age”. Therefore does the Executive Board agree that Welsh in the Foundation Phase is successful in providing children from Welsh speaking homes and English speaking homes the best start in their education?”

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

“As Executive Board Member for Education and Children’s Services I do agree that immersion in Welsh during the Foundation Phase offers children the best possible start in their education through an opportunity to develop fully bilingual skills and to enable them to benefit from the further educational advantages that international research has shown are given to children who are developed bilingually.

International evidence, cited by the Welsh Government in its published documents, confirms that the most effective way of developing bilingual children is

to immerse them in the less common language whilst also developing their skills in the more common language. The Welsh Government also promotes that for children who are from non-Welsh speaking families that immersion in Welsh in school is particularly important in embedding the language.”

5.26. QUESTION BY MR MICHAEL REES TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

As a retired primary school teacher in Carmarthenshire with my final post as a Deputy Head Teacher in a Llanelli school, I would like to ask a question about the strength of a Welsh language education. My wife and I were both brought up in entirely English speaking homes, however, we decided to send our children through Welsh medium education. As English speakers we as parents experienced no problems with our childrens' homework, rather the opposite as it enhanced our knowledge and understanding. During my years in teaching, I did experience teaching in dual stream schools. I have seen at first hand that teaching Welsh as a second language in dual or English medium schools is an overall failure and that dual streams do dilute the Welsh language as is so evident on the playground. Does the Executive Board agree with my observations that the most effective education to produce totally fluent bilingual children - speaking, reading and writing in English and Welsh is a Welsh language medium education?

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

“As Executive Board Member for Education and Children’s Services I do agree that immersion in Welsh during the Foundation Phase offers children the best possible start in their education through an opportunity to develop fully bilingual skills and to enable them to benefit from the further educational advantages that international research has shown are given to children who are developed bilingually.

It is now widely accepted in education circles that studying Welsh second language does not develop truly bilingual young people. In fact the curriculum reform underway currently across Wales recognises this and new standards Welsh language competencies are set to be developed over the coming few years.

International evidence, cited by the Welsh Government in its published documents, confirms that the most effective way of developing bilingual children is to immerse them in the less common language whilst also developing their skills in the more common language. The Welsh Government also promotes that for children who are from non-Welsh speaking families that immersion in Welsh in school is particularly important in embedding the language.”

5.27. QUESTION BY MRS RHIANEDD RHYS TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

“Between 2000 and 2006, the number of children at Ysgol y Ffwrnes had doubled and as a result of this, and other reasons, a new school was built to ensure that there were sufficient places, according to the projections, for the naturally increasing demand by parents for Welsh medium education in the Llanelli area. As

these extended early years classes at Ysgol Ffwrnnes are full or close to being full for September 2016, does the Executive Board agree that this concrete evidence is the only way to ensure that this continued demand for Welsh medium education in the Llanelli area, which ensures that children leave primary school bilingual, is to ensure that Llangennech Infant and Junior schools continue along the language continuum and change to a Welsh medium school? “

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

“In 2008 the County Council conducted a piece of work to assess the future demand for Welsh medium education in and around the town of Llanelli. The finding of this exercise was that demand was growing and that additional Welsh medium places were needed.

As a consequence a decision was taken to invest in new and expanded Welsh medium places across the town.

The Council took the opportunity of a project to provide new premises for Ysgol Gymraeg y Ffwrnnes to expand the number of places at that school, more than trebling the size of the school. Since its opening in 2014 the school has proved very popular with the early years classes in the school either full or very full. In September 2016 it is expected that there will be 400 children registered at the school, compared with the school’s capacity of 480. On the basis of recent trends it is expected that school will be full in a couple of years.

The Council has also provided new premises for Ysgol Gymraeg Brynsierfel, which has maintained healthy pupil numbers.

I believe that the change of language category in Llangennech is a natural progression for the schools, evidenced by the increasing numbers opting for Welsh medium provision over recent years, which will provide consistent opportunity for children across the school to develop as fully bilingual learners by the time they leave for secondary school.”

5.28. QUESTION BY MRS MANON WILLIAMS TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

The Chair advised that Mrs Williams was unable to attend today’s meeting and had requested that he ask her question on her behalf.

“Ysgol Dewi Sant, the first Welsh medium school in Wales to be adopted by the local authority, was opened in 1947. Since then, Welsh medium education has expanded considerably in Wales in general, not as a result of promotion by local authorities, but mainly due to increasing demand by parents, as seen in Llangennech schools. Today, there are over 387 Welsh medium primary schools in Wales and this continues to increase gradually, at the same time the percentage of primary school aged children who received Welsh medium education increased from 18.8% in 2000/01 to 24% in 2014/15. Considering the success and the benefits of this type of teaching and bilingualism in general, which have been recognised world wide, will this Council now consider backing up the wisdom and far-sightedness of parents by actively promoting and marketing Welsh medium

education?”

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

“I share Mrs Williams’ pride that the first Welsh school of the modern era was established here in Carmarthenshire, in the form of Ysgol Gymraeg Dewi Sant, and I too celebrate the growth in Welsh medium education across Wales over the intervening years. We within Carmarthenshire County Council have been working hard through our Modernising Education Programme for a number of years to meet increasing demand for Welsh medium education in our urban centres, especially Llanelli, where the new enlarged Ysgol y Ffwrnes has been created specifically for this purpose, as well as addressing the poor quality of the former school premises.

Carmarthenshire County Council has a progressive and clearly expressed strategy for the development of Welsh medium and bilingual education in the form of its Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP), which has been formally adopted by the County Council as policy. The WESP sets out a comprehensive programme of language development for schools and children across Carmarthenshire. It establishes the Council’s broad strategy to develop bilingualism through the education service, principally by means of expanding Welsh medium education. The local authority has set out to “increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.” As an explicit part of the strategy the Council has made a commitment to ” work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”

In addition to proposals for Dual Stream schools the WESP expects every school, including schools that are currently designated as English medium, to progress along the language continuum, to increase the proportion of education that is delivered through the Welsh language. Clearly the pace at which schools will be able to expand bilingualism and Welsh medium education will depend upon local circumstances but the expectation for progress applies to all schools. The schools in Llangennech have been identified as having the potential to move quickly to become Welsh medium due to the progressive increase in numbers in the Welsh stream over recent years, as evidenced by the data.

Through my role as the Executive Board Member for Education and Children’s Services I am eager to ensure that as many children as possible have the opportunity to develop as fully bilingual young people, enjoying all the wider benefits that international research has shown bilingualism brings to a young person and to their personal development and career opportunities.”

5.29. QUESTION BY MRS SIAN LLOYD TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

“Does the Executive Board agree with me that national data published over recent years by the Welsh Government and Carmarthenshire Education Authority shows clearly that pupils from Welsh schools or streams perform better in external tests

and assessments in core subjects (including English as a subject) than pupils in English medium schools or streams, which shows that Welsh medium schools have clear educational benefits?”

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

“The evidence in Carmarthenshire is that children who receive their education through the medium of Welsh generally achieve as well as children receiving their education through the medium of English in all subjects, including English language and other core subjects. This includes children from homes where Welsh is not the main language.

In November 2014 Estyn published a report on the findings of its examination of outcomes in ten bilingual secondary schools and commented that “... (some) teachers and pupils have the misconception that studying subjects through the medium of Welsh can hinder their academic success. In fact, pupils who follow their GCSE courses through the medium of Welsh achieve as well as, if not better than, those who follow most of their GCSE courses through the medium of English”.

The Department holds the view that Welsh medium education is the most effective means of developing bilingual children by the time they leave primary school and that this form of education offers children additional personal development and educational benefits.

Furthermore, evidence gathered internationally through research demonstrates that children who are developed bilingually benefit from additional learning capacity, including enhanced cognitive ability, improved task understanding and flexibility, enhanced powers of concentration, and so on.”

5.30. QUESTION BY MR CURTIS ROBERTS TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

The Chair advised that Mr Roberts was unable to attend today’s meeting and had requested that the Chair ask his question on his behalf.

“Can the Executive Board confirm, on the basis of their long term experience of introducing the Welsh language to children with special educational needs, with many having come from non-Welsh speaking homes, that this hasn’t had any negative effect on their education or development as individuals?”

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

“Carmarthenshire County Council’s policy is that all its schools should be inclusive, with children with additional learning needs being educated in a mainstream setting alongside their peers wherever possible. In the vast majority of cases this is achieved, with all children benefiting.

Whilst the system is designed to meet the needs of learners through an universal and inclusive approach, for a small number of children with significant and

complex additional needs this is not always possible and specialised provision can offer a more appropriate learning setting.

The Education and Children's Services Department provides specific additional support in schools wherever practicable so that as many children as possible remain in their local school.

All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their circumstances and a tailored support programme is provided according to need. Generally, an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages. It is important to assess and monitor progress in each or all of the languages that a child is using or learning, including sign and visually supported communication systems required for some pupils, particularly as the stronger developed language can be used to support and build learning through a lesser developed medium. Staff are required to differentiate the curriculum and make reasonable adjustments to the language of instruction and response in order to accommodate additional needs and ensure access to the curriculum and learning progress. At times it may be appropriate to target additional support in one language for a period to consolidate and accelerate learning, e.g. in literacy. There will be rare instances, however, where a child may be diagnosed with a condition that is not conducive to a fully bilingual education. In these circumstances a package of support is identified by professional practitioners and discussed with parents. Arrangements are made for the child to attend an appropriate school where their needs can be met. It may be the case that on a small number of occasions the needs of an individual child cannot be met at the local school as, notwithstanding the Council's commitment to inclusive education, it is simply not practicable to meet all needs at every school. In the last five years the Educational and Child Psychology Service has been involved in only one or two cases each year where a move of school has been advised. To place this into context, Carmarthenshire's school system serves around 27,000 pupils in total and so the frequency of pupil movement for additional learning needs is very low indeed.

It is this Council's experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and are successful in our schools irrespective of the language of instruction but the Council does acknowledge that there will be a very few children whose needs cannot be met other than through provision at a specialist unit."

The Chair expressed his thanks to all the questioners for their questions and attendance at the meeting and to Councillor Jones for responding.

6. QUESTIONS REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD BY THE EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

6.1. QUESTION BY MR DARREN SEWARD

"Carmarthenshire County Council has produced a document describing its proposal to CLOSE/DISCONTINUE Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Juniors school and open a new Welsh Medium only Llangennech community primary school. Why is CCC pushing the Welsh assembly directives on Welsh language so far when it is not happening in other counties like Swansea, Neath, Port Talbot and Newport??"

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

“Carmarthenshire County Council has a statutory responsibility under Part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for its area with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, for improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh. The Council is required to set targets for the aims.

In April 2014 the County Council formally adopted a comprehensive strategy for the development of the Welsh language in Carmarthenshire, endorsing the recommendations of a politically balanced group of elected members that had examined in depth the status of the Welsh language in the county in the wake of the 2011 census of the population. The strategy requires action on 73 points, 21 of which apply to the education service. All relevant recommendations and actions from the strategy have been incorporated within Carmarthenshire’s WESP.

Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017 has been approved by the Welsh Government in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

The Plan seeks to achieve the following specific outcomes relevant to the Llangennech schools proposal:

- *To increase the number of 7 year old learners who are educated through the medium of Welsh.*
- *More learners continue to improve their language skills as they move from primary to secondary school.*
- *More students have higher language skills in Welsh.*

The Plan also includes the following aim:

- *Increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in Welsh and English.*

The Plan sets out to achieve the specified outcomes and aims by means of the following actions:

- *The County Council works closely with the staff and governing bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh schools.*
- *Target three dual stream schools to transfer to being Welsh medium by 2017.*

It is important to note that the WESP requires all primary schools in Carmarthenshire, including English medium schools, to move along the language continuum, progressively expanding the proportion of education that is delivered through the medium of Welsh, with a view to ensuring that in time all children leaving primary school are fully bilingual.

Every local authority in Wales has a responsibility to respond to the Act and the Welsh Government's Welsh Medium Education Strategy and is accountable individually to the Welsh Government."

6.2. QUESTION BY NIKKI LLOYD

"There are 121 pupils currently in the School who are not living in the village of Llangennech. However, there are 96 children living in the village travelling to other schools, out of area. Only 15 of those children are attending Welsh medium so that leaves 81 attending alternative English medium. Why such a differentiation? Some of these could have had places in Llangennech but have been turned away making the English stream look as if it is declining."

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

"The pupil figures presented in the Consultation Document are those in being at the time of the annual statutory pupil count in January 2015.

The latest figures for January 2016 are as follows:

Llangennech Infants School

The total number of pupils is 210, with 161 children residing within the catchment area and 49 pupils residing outside the catchment area.

Llangennech Junior School

The total number of pupils is 236, with 175 children residing within the catchment area and 61 pupils residing outside the catchment area.

Both Schools Combined

Aggregated together the totals for both schools are – the total number of pupils is 446, with 336, or 75%, living in the catchment area and 110 children, or 25%, living outside the catchment area.

In January 2016 there were 96 children living within the catchment area of the Llangennech schools attending other schools. Of these, 16 children attended Welsh medium schools, 7 attended dual stream schools and 73 attended English medium schools, with a significant number of 39 children, over half those leaving the catchment area, attending Bryn school. 3 of the children attended faith based schools.

It is the County Council's preference that children attend their local school and it is upon this principle that school places are planned.

However, it is the case that some parents choose schools for their children other than the designated catchment school and they do this for a number of reasons, e.g. access to extended family for working parents, ease of transporting children, proximity of the home to schools, reputation, faith character, etc.

The County Council is obliged to facilitate parental preference only where this is

consistent with the effective delivery of education and the efficient use of resources. No parent has a right to demand a place at any particular school for their child or children. School places are allocated on the basis of the Council's published admissions policy, which favours children attending their local or "designated" school. Children are admitted to school other than their designated school when places are available.

The Admission to School: Information for Parents booklet states – "Parents can state a preference for a school, which is not the designated catchment area school. Subject to the limit on the number of pupils who can be admitted into the school not being exceeded and the correct procedures being followed, then admission will be granted."

It is relevant to note that due to the configuration of the catchment area of the Llangennech schools that a significant number of children living in the south of the catchment area reside closer to other schools than they do to the Llangennech schools. Prominent among these is Bryn School which receives 39 pupils from the Llangennech catchment area who live in or close to Penllwyngwyn Road, Hendre Park, Harddfán, Bryn Uchaf and Pendderi Road and live much closer to this school.

The Llangennech schools are able to accommodate all children living within the catchment area. These children receive preference to children living outside the catchment area under the established admissions policies.

No children from within the Llangennech schools catchment area have been denied a place at Llangennech schools by the County Council as the statutory Admissions Authority.

The published Admissions Numbers for the Llangennech schools apply to the school as a whole and do not consider language choice. Children can only be admitted to the schools by the local authority as the statutory admissions body. Schools do not have the right to admit pupils themselves or to decline places. The County Council has not refused a place to any child residing within the catchment area, irrespective of language preference.

The movement of pupils between school catchment areas is a common circumstance across the county in both urban and rural areas."

6.3. QUESTION BY NIKKI LLOYD

"We have already had one parent that we know of refused a place in Bryn due to 54 requests for only 30 places. Hendy is full also, where are you going to provide provision for parents who want or NEED to educate their children in English medium?"

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

"In the school admissions round for September 2016 a total of 54 applications were received for Bryn school compared with the Admissions Number of 30.

Of the 54 applications only 8 were from children residing in the Bryn school

catchment area. 7 were on behalf of children residing in the Llangennech schools catchment area.

Places were offered to 30 children, up to the published Admissions Number, in accordance with the criteria published in the document "Admission to School – Information for Parents 2016/2017".

The admissions process continues and it will be a number of weeks yet before the final position is known.

If this pattern continues into future years it is likely that places at Bryn school could be available for children residing in the Llangennech catchment area, but places cannot be guaranteed, as is the position at all other schools across the county.

However, it is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at Llangennech school and that in the future local pupils attend the village school, receiving their education principally through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so until they leave for secondary school. The school will continue to provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium in which they currently receive their education.

Should the proposal be implemented sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils studying through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. The schools currently offer a range of support to pupils and parents from non-Welsh speaking families and are committed to increasing provision as necessary to meet the future needs of families. "Athrawon Gymraeg a Ddwyieithrwydd", specialist Welsh language development teachers, who provide support to schools around the county, and currently attend the schools twice a week, will continue to support the school to offer additional assistance to children as required.

All pupils with additional learning needs receive specific support identified in individual plans based on their personal circumstances. All necessary support will continue to be provided for each individual currently attending the Llangennech schools through the medium in which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive this support mainly through the medium of Welsh. In the majority of cases an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages. It is our experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and abilities are successful in all of our schools irrespective of the language of instruction. It is acknowledged, however, that in a small number of cases the specific needs of individual children require provision that it is difficult to meet in an inclusive mainstream setting. For these few children specific provision is made in a school that is able to meet the child's needs. Whilst the preference of the local authority is that children attend their local school for a small number of children with particular needs this is not always possible. Where a child has specific needs identified by professional practitioners and a particular school is identified that can meet the needs of the child that is not the local school the Council's transport policies provide that the child may be eligible for transport to and from school."

6.4. QUESTION BY ROBERT WILLOCK

“Out of the 121 children currently in the school 91 are attending Welsh medium. Why is this so when the new Furnace school is under capacity by 132 places and Brynserfiel under by 38.5 Pupils according to section 2.3 of the consultation document. There's surplus capacity at Welsh Mediums which is not in alignment with School Organisation Code 2013 which states no more than a 10% surplus. There are 1,710 as per Carmarthenshire Councils website surplus places in all welsh medium primary schools in Carmarthenshire figures taken from ccc own website. So doesn't justify any further spaces being created. The School Organisation code 2013 states when developing proposals relevant bodies should have regard to Local plans for economic or housing development. Why has there been no regard given to the 91 houses being built in Hendy and 700 plus houses planned for Pontardulais? Surely, this would have a major impact on the surrounding schools. Hendy is one of the nearest schools for English medium if this proposal goes through. However, Llanedi school is facing closure and advised to relocate to Hendy. Hendy school are already nearing full capacity and as a dual stream are earmarked for changing to Welsh Medium Only. The other nearest English medium is the Bryn School but the county have already been issuing reject letters as they have received 54 applications so far and only have 30 spaces. As well as the proposed new school being unfit for purpose as it does not serve the community it's meant to support, English speaking children appear to have no nearby alternatives?”

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

“For the spring term 2016 there are a total of 446 children attending the Llangennech schools, 210 in the infants school and 236 in the junior school.

Overall, taking both schools together and excluding the children in the reception classes, 73% of children are in the Welsh stream and 27% are in the English stream.

Children are attending the language streams according to parental preference and as agreed between the school and parents. Data confirms that over recent years the number and proportion of children attending the Welsh stream has been steadily increasing whilst the number and proportion attending the English stream has been declining.

The new Ysgol y Ffwrnes was built to ensure adequate capacity to meet projections in the Llanelli area where demand for Welsh medium primary education has been increasing over recent years. It was fully recognised that the new Ysgol Ffwrnes would have surplus places at the point of opening but these would be taken up over a period of years.

The Welsh Government expects local authorities to endeavour to manage surplus school places within a tolerance of 10% overall, accepting that figures at individual schools will vary as a consequence of various factors. The School Organisation Code notes that “some spare places are necessary to enable schools to cope with fluctuations in numbers of pupils”. The Welsh Government regards a single school as having excess surplus places if it has more than 25% of its places empty.

It is true that a number of Carmarthenshire's Welsh medium schools have surplus places. These schools are predominantly in rural areas where there has been a decline in the number of young families and the number of children. This situation is not an indicator of a decline in the demand for Welsh medium education but an indicator of the demographic change facing many rural communities, with a generally ageing population.

Through its Modernising Education Programme Carmarthenshire County Council has removed approximately 3150 surplus places from its primary schools estate over the past 15 years, predominantly in rural areas, demonstrating that Carmarthenshire County Council is effective at managing surplus places.

This Council's school organisation proposals routinely consider future housing developments and the demand that these can produce for school places. The objective of the Council's proposals for the Llangennech schools is that local children attend Llangennech school in future. The Council does not intend that any local child should seek a school place outside Llangennech, other than in the infrequent incidence of a specific additional learning need in which case the Council will work with parents to identify the most appropriate arrangement. It is for this reason that no reference is made in the Consultation document to potential housing development in Hendy or any other school area.

The County Council will continue to monitor demand for places at Hendy School, in particular with regard to new housing developments being built in the locality in the foreseeable future and with regards to the review of Llanedi school and will respond as appropriate. The Council's Modernising Education Programme includes provision for investment at Hendy school in the medium term to expand and modernise the school's premises and facilities and it should be possible to align this investment with a need to increase capacity, should that need arise.

The City and County of Swansea's Local Development Plan (LDP) draft deposit is due to be published for consultation in the summer of 2016. This draft plan includes a significant allocation of over 700 residential units in Pontarddulais. Discussions with officers at the City and County of Swansea confirm that they are planning to develop schools within the community of Pontarddulais to meet all need arising from their LDP in due course, as required by the development timeline. This is a matter for Swansea local authority to resolve."

6.5. QUESTION BY JACQUELINE SEWARD

"Following the closure of a school and the consequential loss of a language stream, provision should be offered to at least equivalent standards to learners according to the School Organisation Code 2013. However, Llangennech is currently Green. Hendy is yellow and the Bryn is Amber. How is this equivalent?"

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

"The questioner correctly notes the categorisation of Llangennech, Bryn and Hendy schools for 2015.

The County Council intends that children from Llangennech should receive their primary education in the local school, which is performing to high standards

presently and categorised as Green.

Should parents elect to place their children in alternative schools they will do so in full consideration of all the factors that apply, including standards at alternative schools, transport implications, etc.

The County Council is not proposing alternatives to Llangennech school for local children. It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils attend the village school, receiving their education principally through the medium of Welsh.

English medium options have been identified in the Consultation Document as required by the School Organisation Code, along with all the relevant information for comparison purposes, but it is not the Council's intention that children from Llangennech seek an alternative school."

6.6. QUESTION BY NIGEL HUGHES

"The consultation document is a flawed document that does not recognise those disadvantaged by the proposals from within Llangennech village. To state that there is nobody affected by these proposed changes is naïve and ignorant and shows that the Authority has failed to show 'due regard' under the Public Duty Act to those affected by simply saying they don't exist. In doing so, they have not covered the Health and Safety aspects or capacity issues at alternative schools. If walking to Hendy for example, crossing a dual carriageway, will put lives at risk. There is a CrashMap available online which shows along that particular route, one accident occurring every 2 months on average. Therefore, this consultation simply exposes a rush to a predetermined outcome irrespective of any views that were to be gathered throughout the process. We believe that we can evidence the fact that either the LEA or the governing body or both have failed to comply with The School Organisational Code 2013 and possibly the law. Do you think this is acceptable to put young children at risk daily?"

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

"The Consultation Document and the consultation process comply with the requirements of the School Organisation Code.

The County Council's proposal intends that children from Llangennech attend the local school.

If the proposal is implemented children residing within the Llangennech school catchment area who attend Llangennech school will benefit from the local authority's admissions policy and transport to school policy, which takes full account of safety considerations.

Should, however, parents decide to place their children in alternative schools where places are available they do so in full consideration of all the factors that apply, including transport implications."

6.7. QUESTION BY DARREN SEWARD

“Is there need for additional nursery places in the area when we already have two providers? Specific factors need to be taken into account for proposals to add or remove nursery classes as outline in the School Organisation Code 2013. Relevant bodies should take into account specific factors: the standard of nursery education and the sufficiency of accommodation and facilities offered both in the classroom and outdoors, and the viability of any school that wishes to add nursery places; whether there is a need for additional nursery places in the area; the levels of demand for certain types of nursery education e.g. Welsh medium or provision with a religious character; the effect of the proposals on other institutions, including private and third sector providers; and the extent to which proposals will integrate early years education with childcare services or are consistent with an integrated approach. Within the consultation document, there is no evidence that these have been taken into consideration and the effect of the proposals on other private sector providers?”

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

“There are presently 4 registered childcare providers in Llangennech, 2 of which are commissioned to provide part-time nursery education and 1 of which is able to deliver through the medium of Welsh.

The County Council acknowledges that there will be implications for these 2 providers should the proposal proceed as the funding they presently receive for providing part-time nursery education will cease.

Whilst the provision of nursery education across Carmarthenshire is delivered through a “mixed economy” model of schools, independent sector organisations and private companies it is the view of the County Council that nursery education is more effectively delivered in a school setting wherever practicable under the professional guidance of qualified teachers and under the leadership of a professional head teacher. Locating nursery provision on a school site is generally considered to be preferable as it facilitates a child’s entry to full time education more effectively. It is generally the model favoured by Carmarthenshire schools.”

6.8. QUESTION BY MICHAELA BEDDOWS

“Special Educational Needs: No consideration has been given for children with special educational needs who are usually advised to only go in an English medium. Stream or the language of their home environment. Children with global delay struggle with one language let alone two, therefore by removing the dual stream it would exclude these children from attending the school. Children with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder really can’t cope with change in routine, so if they were to start then struggle in a Welsh Medium school and then have to move to an English Medium school that change would have a massive impact on them. How has this been overlooked and why has it not been addressed?”

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

“Carmarthenshire County Council’s policy is that all its schools should be inclusive, with children with additional learning needs educated in a mainstream setting alongside their peers wherever possible. In the vast majority of cases this is

achieved with all children benefiting.

Carmarthenshire's school system serves around 27,000 pupils and whilst the system is designed to meet the needs of learners through an universal and inclusive approach for a small number of children with specific additional needs this is not always possible and specialised provision offers a more appropriate learning setting.

In order to make sure that the needs of all learners are met the schools system in Carmarthenshire includes a range of provision for children with additional needs. A specialist school offers education to children with the most profound or complex needs where a mainstream setting is either not suitable for the children's needs or where parents prefer this alternative setting. Selected secondary and primary schools across the county include specialised units for children with particular needs, such as autism, sensory impairment or speech and language delay. The Education and Children's Services Department provides specific additional support in schools wherever practicable so that as many children as possible remain in their local school. Whilst the Council's preference is to meet the needs of all children in a mainstream setting wherever possible this is not always practicable.

All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their circumstances and a tailored support programme is provided according to need. Generally, an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages. There will be rare instances, however, where a child may be diagnosed with a condition that is not conducive to a fully bilingual education. In these circumstances a package of support is identified by professional practitioners and discussed with parents. Arrangements are made for the child to attend an appropriate school where their needs can be met. It may be the case that on a small number of occasions the needs of an individual child cannot be met at the local school as, notwithstanding the Council's commitment to inclusive education, it is simply not practicable to meet all needs at every school.

It is the Council's experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and abilities are successful in our schools irrespective of the language of instruction but the Council does acknowledge that there will be a very few children whose needs cannot be met other than through provision at a specialist unit.

For the Llangennech proposal the support provided to children with additional needs will continue through the medium in which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive this support mainly through the medium of Welsh."

6.9. QUESTION BY STEVE HATTO

"Figures manipulated – From the information supplied by the LEA as the groups knowledge of the school it is clearly evident that the figures have been manipulated by individuals to bolster a particular scenario. We can evidence that the current English streams at the school make up over 30% of the total number of pupils. The consultation states Llangennech infant school total pupils in 2015 had 186 in Welsh stream. This is not a true figure as it includes all pupils in Derbyn 1 and 2 which totals 94 pupils, irrelevant of it they are registered to continue into the English stream they have been falsely identified for the purpose of the consultation

document as Welsh stream pupils. Also if we factor in the 27% coming from outside areas, together with a potential loss of English Stream, current projections will show that Llangennech School will have over 50% of pupils coming from outside the area. Do you believe, that we then have 'the right school, in the right place and can you confirm if these figures are correct?'

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

"The figures presented in the Consultation Document are accurate as at January 2015. The point made by the questioner that in Derbyn 1 and Derbyn 2 classes all children receive a bilingual education, but predominantly though the medium of Welsh, with a choice of language stream available when the children enter Year 1, is correct.

There are no separate streams in the reception (derbyn) classes. All children benefit from immersion in a predominantly Welsh medium provision, with English being used as a means of supporting access to the Welsh language by cross reference.

The current pupil figures are as follows:

Llangennech Infants School

All 118 pupils in the reception classes are taught principally through the medium of Welsh, with English used as a facilitator according to the needs of individual children.

Of a total of 116 pupils in Year 1 and Year 2 classes, 88, or 76%, attend the Welsh stream and 28, or 24%, attend the English stream.

Llangennech Junior School

Of a total of 235 pupils 167, or 71%, attend the Welsh stream and 68, or 29%, attend the English stream.

Both Schools Together

Combining the figures for both schools and excluding the pupils in the reception classes, 73% attend the Welsh stream and 27% attend the English stream.

These figures confirm that a significant majority of parents, many of whom are not themselves Welsh speaking, favour Welsh medium provision.

The Department believes that creating a Welsh medium school in the Llangennech area does provide the right school in the right place, providing all pupils with the opportunity to develop as fully bilingual young people by the time they leave for secondary school."

6.10. QUESTION BY KAREN HUGHES

"There are approximately 11 dual Stream Schools in Carmarthenshire which according to the Welsh Language Strategy, are being earmarked for Welsh

Medium only. It must be recognised that not all these schools will be suitable based upon their logistics as they will be dual stream for a reason, so how and who is assessing the demand and suitability? Has an horizon scanning exercise been conducted for Llangennech community i.e to assess how the village/population of Llangennech will look in 5, 10, 15 years time? With an increased number of new builds, an influx in migration, being close to the M4 corridor, can we confidently say that Welsh Medium Only will meet these demands when 80% of the population is already English speaking. After all, 27% of pupils are coming from outside areas and village figures do not show an increase in demand for Welsh. The Welsh Language Strategy Impact has also not been assessed properly if at all. There is no reference to English speakers having less of an appreciation of the cultural heritage of Wales if they attend English Medium only, more people are likely to try the Welsh stream if they know they can fall back to English within the same school. This will have the adverse effect. The use of Welsh within the community is minimal and does not support the linguistic demographics or the stats from the 2011 census. Why aren't these risks being factored in?"

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

"There are currently 10 Dual Stream schools in Carmarthenshire, as categorised by their governing bodies, including the two Llangennech schools.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to "increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages." In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been resolved that "the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."

All schools will be assessed at the appropriate time to determine their capacity to develop language provision.

In addition to proposals for Dual Stream schools the WESP expects every school, including schools that are currently designated as English medium to progress along the language continuum, to increase the proportion of education that is delivered through the Welsh language. Clearly the pace at which schools will be able to expand bilingualism and Welsh medium education will depend upon local circumstances but the expectation for progress applies to all schools. The schools in Llangennech have been identified as having the potential to move quickly to become Welsh medium due to the progressive increase in numbers in the Welsh stream over recent years, as evidenced by the data.

It is the belief of the County Council that all children benefit from a truly bilingual education, which provides wider skills development, such as cognitive ability, task understanding and flexibility, enhanced powers of concentration, etc, and that all children should receive these opportunities.

It is noted that some members of the community are unable to speak the Welsh language and that many children attending the school come from non-Welsh backgrounds. It is, therefore, important for the local authority to increase the provision of Welsh medium education in order to promote bilingualism in the area and to ensure that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.

There is a national priority in Wales, shared by Carmarthenshire County Council, to increase the number of people in our communities who are able to speak Welsh and use it in their everyday lives. Schools are regarded to be a critically important component in developing children so that they are fully bilingual by the time they leave primary school. International evidence, cited by the Welsh Government, confirms that the most effective way of developing bilingual children is to immerse them in the less common language whilst also developing their skills in the more common language. The Welsh Government also promotes that for children who are from non-Welsh speaking families that immersion in Welsh in school is particularly important in embedding the language.

The County Council acknowledges that the nature of communities changes over time and that social mobility continues to increase. The Council considers that this point reinforces the need to embed Welsh medium education in as many communities as possible in order to bolster the language and provide as many children as possible with the opportunity to develop as truly bilingual citizens and to benefit from the personal advantages that bilingualism brings.

Bilingualism will increasingly over time become an employment skill. For example, all public organisations in Wales are subject to new statutory Welsh language standards and progressively over time will need to recruit increasing numbers of Welsh speakers to deliver services. Possessing Welsh language skills will increasingly over time over give individuals a competitive advantage when seeking employment.

Rather than being an impediment, possessing skills in the Welsh language is seen by many universities, inside and outside Wales, as an additional skill, which can offer benefits when a young person is competing for a place to study.”

6.11. QUESTION BY ROBERT WILLOCK

“The Community Impact Assessment is not actually an Impact Assessment at all. It has not recognised any risks or risk assessed them (given a positive, negative or neutral rating). One would expect consideration to be given to the impact on neighbouring schools, impact on parents and families, impact on pupils, travel implications, impact of community demographics, environmental impacts, impact upon community activities, impact on residents. These are the areas which are likely to be negatively assessed and have totally been overlooked! Why?”

Response by Councillor G.O. Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

“The Community Impact Assessment and other assessments set out in the Consultation Document have been developed according to the requirements of the School Organisation Code, which is the standard that applies in developing school

organisation proposals.”

The Chair thanked all the questioners for submitting their questions to the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee and to Councillor Jones for his responses.

7. ADJOURNMENT

At this point in the proceedings the Chair drew members' attention to the time and proposed that the meeting stand adjourned for lunch.

As Councillor Devichand was unable to return for the reconvened meeting, she sought permission from the Chair to ask her question before the adjournment.

In accordance with CPR 11.1 Councillor Devichand asked whether the Executive Board Member agreed that it was not the intention of the Labour Welsh Assembly Government or the Welsh Language Board to take away the choice and democratic right of a community to change the language category of the school without due consideration for the adverse effects on the community of Llangennech?

The Executive Board Member for Education & Children stated that he was unable to speak on behalf of the Labour government, however, he was awaiting guidance from Cardiff on the movement along the language continuum.

Councillor Devichand asked whether the Executive Board Member agreed that language should not be a barrier causing concern and division in a community and limit people's choices in their academic or working life?

The Executive Board Member agreed and pointed out that that was why the consultation was being held, to make sure that the children have the best possible opportunities in their future life.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the remainder of the business on the agenda should stand adjourned until 1.50 p.m. that day.

8. RECONVENED MEETING

The meeting reconvened in the Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen at 1.50 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor E. Dole [Chair]

Councillors:

H.A.L. Evans, L.D. Evans, D.M. Jenkins, G.O. Jones, T.J. Jones, P.A. Palmer, L.M. Stephens and J. Tremlett

Present as observers:

Councillors S.M. Caiach, D.M. Cundy, J.S. Edmunds, W.G. Hopkins and G. Thomas

The following Officers were in attendance:

Mr M. James	-	Chief Executive
Mr C. Moore	-	Director of Corporate Services

Mr J. Morgan	-	Director of Community Services
Ms R. Mullen	-	Director of Environment
Mr R. Sully	-	Director of Education & Children
Mr P. Thomas	-	Assistant Chief Executive
Ms W. Walters	-	Assistant Chief Executive
Mr J. Fearn	-	Head of Property Maintenance & Construction
Mr S. Pilliner	-	Head of Transport & Engineering
Ms L. Rees Jones	-	Head of Administration & Law
Mr G. Morgans	-	Chief Education Officer
Mr S. Davies	-	School Modernisation Manager
Mrs D. Hockenull	-	Media & Marketing Manager
Mr I. Llewellyn	-	Forward Planning Manager
Mr G. Williams	-	Assistant Solicitor
Mrs M. Evans Thomas	-	Principal Democratic Services Officer

Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen : 1.50 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor M. Gravell.

9. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME - PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE LLANGENNECH INFANT SCHOOL AND LLANGENNECH JUNIOR SCHOOL AND ESTABLISH LLANGENNECH COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Board considered a report and received a presentation on a proposal to discontinue Llangennech Infant School and Llangennech Junior School and establish Llangennech Community Primary School.

Following the retirement of the headteacher of Llangennech Infant School at the end of the summer term 2013 a soft federation was established with the headteacher of Llangennech Junior School. On 24th September, 2014 the Governing Bodies of both school resolved to pursue a formal federation as from April, 2015.

The Local Authority currently offered full time learning provision for 4-11 year old through the medium of Welsh and English at the federated Llangennech Infants and Junior Schools. As part of the new 3-11 primary school which would include nursery provision, it was proposed to change the current linguistic categories of Llangennech Infant School (Dual Stream (DS)) and Llangennech Junior School (Dual Stream (DS)) to a new Welsh Medium (WM) language category school which would increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and would ensure that bilingualism was increased in the Llangennech area. It would ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil would become fluent and confident in Welsh and English, as detailed in the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2014-17.

As a result of a small extension to the consultation period, the pre-election period and the high number of responses received during the consultation period, the dates for the proposal had changed. This was in order to ensure that sufficient time was allowed for people to express their views and that the school holiday period did not impede on the process. It was therefore proposed:-

- (i) to discontinue Llangennech Infant School on 31st August, 2017;
- (ii) to discontinue Llangennech Junior School on 31st August, 2017;
- (iii) as from 1st September, 2017, to establish a new 3-11 Welsh Medium (WM) language category Community Primary School with nursery provision (hereinafter called Llangennech Community Primary School) on the existing sites and buildings of the current Llangennech Infants and Junior Schools. The current capacity of both schools would remain unchanged but would be reviewed and adjusted accordingly should the demand arise in the future.

In accordance with the Executive Board's instructions at the meeting held on 4th January, 2016 (minute no. 15 refers) a formal consultation exercise was undertaken from 25th January to 18th March, 2016, the results of which were appended to the report.

If the decision was made to proceed with a Statutory Notice, it would be published the week beginning 5th September, 2016. If approved, following the end of Statutory Notice period, an objection report summarising any objections received by stakeholders would be presented to the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee, Executive Board and ultimately to Council for determination.

In accordance with CPR 11.1 Councillor D.M. Cundy asked, should the dual stream system be abandoned in Llangennech, the local English medium schools in Bynea, Bryn and Hendy will be under severe pressure for places from September this year with the newly completed developments and proposed new builds in the area, combined with the added influx of children from Llangennech requiring English medium education, what is the plan and the budget allocated for the inevitable upgrades needed to these schools in the next few years?

The Executive Board Member explained that the Authority's school organisational proposals take into account future housing developments in view of the demand that they can produce for school places. The objective of the proposals for Llangennech School is that local children attend that school in the future. The Council does not intend that any local child should seek a school place outside Llangennech. The Council will continue to monitor the demand for places at Hendy School with particular regard to new housing developments being built in the locality. The MEP includes provision for investment at Hendy to expand and modernise the school and it should be possible to align this investment with the need to increase capacity, should that need arise. The residential development in Pontardulais is a matter for the City and County of Swansea.

In accordance with CPR 11.1 Councillor J.S. Edmunds asked the Executive Board Member for Education & Children whether the Executive Board would consider allowing the status quo to remain at Llangennech and avoid the detrimental effect that the proposals are having on the community of Llangennech and adopt greater strategic thinking for the remaining 9 months of the administration to avoid the current position being mirrored in other areas of Carmarthenshire.

The Executive Board Member for Education & Children reminded Councillor Edmunds that the process is very democratic and several consultation periods are undertaken before a final decision is made by Full Council.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

- 9.1 that the observations received following the initial consultation period and the Authority's responses thereto be noted;
- 9.2 that the publication of a statutory notice to implement the proposal be approved.

10. ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TASK & FINISH GROUP FINAL REPORT 2015/16 - CAR PARKING CHARGES

The Executive Board was informed that the Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting on the 15th May, 2015, had agreed to establish a Task & Finish Group to research different approaches to car parking charges that could be applied in the county.

Following consideration of a report on Llanelli Car Parks at its meeting held on 28th September, 2015 (minute no. 14 refers), the Executive Board also requested that the Group explore the option of introducing a pay on exit system at the Llanelli multi-storey car park in lieu of the pay and display/pay on foot system.

The review had culminated in the formulation of 11 recommendations following the consideration of a range of evidence and information from a wide variety of sources over a series of meetings held between September 2015 and April 2016.

The Chair of the Task and Finish Group thanked all who had been involved in its deliberations.

It was noted that the recommendations being put forward would need to be set against the resource implications.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group on Car Parking Charges, as detailed within the report, be endorsed.

11. CARMARTHENSHIRE ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY

The Board considered the Carmarthenshire Road Safety Strategy 2016-2020 which aimed to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on the county's roads, in line with national casualty reduction targets set by the Road Safety Framework for Wales which had to be achieved by 2020.

It was noted that the Authority would continue to invest in road safety through funding of road safety education, evaluation and engineering and continued support for enforcement action by the Police. Officers would also continue to engage in collaboration and partnership working to deliver road safety education initiatives and identify sites for enforcement and engineering intervention.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Carmarthenshire Road Safety Strategy 2016-2020 be endorsed.

12. REVENUE BUDGET OUTLOOK 2017/18 - 2019/20

The Board considered a report detailing the current financial outlook and providing an update on the current financial model covering the next three financial years. The report outlined proposals for taking forward the budget preparation for the three year period 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20

RESOLVED

12.1 that the initial budget outlook and the significant financial challenges it poses be noted;

12.2 that the proposed approach to identifying the required savings be endorsed;

12.3 that the proposed approach to the budget consultation be endorsed.

13. ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT 2015/16

The Executive Board was reminded that Council, at its meeting held on the 24th February, 2015 (Minute 8 thereof refers), had adopted the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy. In line with that policy the Board received the Annual Treasury Management and Prudential Indicator Report which outlined the Authority's Treasury Management activities in 2015/16 and summarised the activities that had taken place during 2015/16 under the headings of: Investments; Borrowing; Treasury Management Prudential Indicators; Prudential Indicators; Leasing and Rescheduling.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that the Annual Treasury Management and Prudential Indicator Report 2015/16 be received.

14. SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV)

The Board was provided with a brief summary of the process followed since the its decision to proceed with the Solar Photovoltaic (PV) project at its meeting held on 27th July, 2015 (minute 3 refers).

An additional report was considered by Council on 10th March, 2016 (minute 11 refers) when it was agreed that the scheme be funded as part of the Capital Programme and Councillor D.M. Jenkins, Executive Board Member for Resources, was appointed to sit on the Board of the Community Benefit Society, Egni Sir Gâr.

Although it had been agreed that the Council should invest directly in Egni Sir Gâr, up to a maximum of £1.5m, there was no authority for the Council to purchase shares in Egni Sir Gâr.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Council purchases shares in Egni Sir Gâr to the value of the final investment, up to a maximum of £1.5m.

15. PARC HOWARD MASTERPLAN

The Board considered an updated masterplan for Parc Howard in Llanelli. The

park is managed by the Environment Department while the Mansion House (Museum) is managed by the Leisure Division within the Communities Department.

Whilst elements of the masterplan may be longer term aspirations, possibly delivered through, or in partnership with, the Parc Howard Association (PHA) or Friends of Parc Howard Group, five priority areas had been identified for immediate progress:-

- New play facilities to cater for toddlers, juniors and teenagers within the park;
- Car parking provision that would encourage greater use of the facilities and be essential to facilitate sensitive commercial development of the park;
- Sensitive commercial use of the ground floor of the mansion house and possibly the walled garden area to the rear;
- Re-vamping of the museum display on the first floor, including a community room, and the realisation of the Heritage 6 project (a collaboration between Archives, Museums and Libraries developing a website to digitise the heritage of Carmarthenshire through a community driven website based on 6 themes: People, Places, Events, Periods, Industry and Sport);
- Refurbishment of the bandstand.

£150k had been identified from departmental reserves for the playground improvements. Car park improvement costs would need to be confirmed but were anticipated to be in the region of £100k. After initial capital investment the commercial use of the ground floor of the mansion and the walled garden should bring an income into the park which should help reduce future running costs. The re-vamp of the museum and delivery of the Heritage 6 project was anticipated to cost in the region of £30k. Costs for the repair to the bandstand were yet to be confirmed but would probably be circa £50k (probably via grant bid or external funding in conjunction with PHA).

RESOLVED

15.1 that the Parc Howard Masterplan be received;

15.2 that the allocation of £150k from departmental reserves for the installation of two new playgrounds within the park be endorsed;

15.3 that the byelaws associated within the park be reviewed/revoked in order to align with current and future use;

15.4 that the parking provision within and around the park be reviewed and the sensitive commercial development opportunities for the ground floor of the mansion and the rear walled garden area be explored.

16. PEMBREY COUNTRY PARK MASTERPLAN

The Board considered the first draft of an updated masterplan for Pembrey Country Park. The draft document had been prepared with the aim of prompting further discussion whilst giving an indication of how zones within the park could be developed. Much more detailed work would be required on the masterplan within

input from planning and design. The masterplan would also need to fit into the wider regeneration masterplan for Pembrey Peninsula and the Llanelli Coastal Belt.

Three priority areas had been identified for immediate progress:-

- Improvements to the site entrance and park signage;
- New shower and toilet block(s) for the caravan and camping site;
- Visitor hub and café for the park.

The following areas would also be developed in terms of further design and costing:-

- It was anticipated that the restaurant building, a large and structurally sound building, could be clad and re-furnished to incorporate some much needed indoor activities for the park e.g. soft play, indoor climbing, table top games, action walls, small arcade;
- Creation of a new beach sports zone near to the beach front kiosk and incorporating a new themed play facility and a beach volleyball/soccer area.

It was difficult to estimate the costs at present without any site investigation works or detailed specifications. Some of the aspirations outlined in the masterplan could be delivered as later phases through private sector investment or internal invest to save bids. New facilities within the park needed to be sensitively designed with a consistent branding. One option would be to progress via design and build with fixed budgets for each development. Possible costs could be within the following parameters:-

- Entrance circa £75k
- Shower and toilet block circa £200k
- Visitor hub and café circa £600k
- Indoor activity centre circa £450k
- New beach sports zone circa £250k

£250k had already been identified in the 2016/17 capital programme for Pembrey County Park, however, a proportion of this was already earmarked for works to the Ski Centre café (circa £30k) whilst £50k had already been spent on the replacement of play equipment in the junior play area. Further investment was planned at the Ski and Activity Centre, creating new adventurous activities such as a climbing wall, adventure play area, zip wire etc.

All of the above would require extensive design and planning input. Ideally, the priority developments would be in place for the 2017 Spring/Summer season, however, this was challenging. The use of framework partners or external development partners would greatly assist in terms of progressing these elements quickly.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

16.1 that the Pembrey County Park draft masterplan be received;

16.2 that the resource implications for the following be noted:-

- re-configured park entrance, including signage and barrier system – circa £75k;
- shower and toilet block(s) for caravan and camping site – circa £200k;
- visitor hub and café – circa £600k.

17. JAPANESE KNOTWEED AND OTHER INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANTS

The Board was informed that the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014 introduced major changes to the powers available to tackle anti-social behaviour problems. It was introduced by the government with no additional resources for implementation.

The powers of the above-mentioned Act included “Community Protection Notices” which could be issued by Councils, the Police and designated social landlords where behaviour has such a detrimental effect on the quality of life of the locality and is persistent and unreasonable. Such notices could require a person to stop the offending behaviour or take positive action to avoid further anti-social behaviour.

The Police & Crime Commissioner had realigned the arrangements of the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) function by withdrawing funding from each of the Councils in Dyfed Powys (who were providing specific ASB officers) and consolidated this role in Gwalia in 2015. The role of the officers in Gwalia was to support other agencies in supporting Anti-Social Behaviour Area Problem Solving Group meetings and victim support, however, they have no enforcement role as with the previous arrangements.

In light of the fact that Gwalia have no enforcement role, any enforcement falls on either the Council or the Police Authority.

Having regard to invasive, non-native plants, including Japanese Knotweed, guidance issued by the Home Office suggested that this power (service of Community Protection Notices) may be used to require landowners to take steps to control such plants on their land. In light of the fact that this was guidance, there was no legal obligation on agencies to implement and thereby carry out enforcement.

There were practical difficulties in using this power:-

- (a) There are few means available to landowners to physically tackle Japanese Knotweed and these were of limited effect. It was quite possible that the requirements specified in a notice may not actually work;
- (b) The available methods were also expensive, which would provide recipient of a notice with a valid ground of appeal;
- (c) If a complaint is received that knotweed has spread from another property onto the complainant’s land, notices would have to be served on both landowners;
- (d) The above factors would result in the investigation and enforcement to remediate to be very time consuming and therefore very resource intensive on officers;
- (e) The Police Authority would only take action where such plants had been illegally moved;
- (f) The Authority had literature regarding invasive non-native plants on the

- website with signposting/links to additional information regarding control methods;
- (g) The Authority had a programme in place to control any invasive non-native plants on Council land.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

- 17.1 That the Authority will not respond to or take any formal action with regards to requests on private properties regarding Japanese Knotweed or other invasive non-native plants;**
- 17.2 That the Authority will sign-post customers to the guidance available on the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs website with regards to how to remove and safely dispose of such plants;**
- 17.3 That the Authority will continue to implement its programme of control of invasive non-native plants on its property;**
- 17.4 That the Authority makes representations to the WLGA regarding the need for additional funding for Local Authorities to control invasive plants.**

18. DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE - CARMARTHESHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Board was reminded that Council, at its meeting held on 11th November, 2015 (minute 12 refers), approved the publication of the draft Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) for formal consultation. The consultation period took place between 24th February and 8th April, 2016 and in total 59 representations were received from a range of organisations, interested parties and members of the public, details of which were set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

It was noted that the draft SPG had been prepared to support and elaborate on the policies and provisions contained in the Adopted Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan (LDP). It was not the purpose of the SPG to devolve policy matters from the LDP or from national policy.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL

- 18.1 That the representations received be noted;**
- 18.2 To proceed to formally adopt the Supplementary Planning Guidance to the Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan, including the proposed amendments;**
- 18.3 That officers be given delegated authority to amend any typographical or grammatical errors.**

19. MODEL TIME OFF POLICY FOR SCHOOLS

[NOTE: Councillors L.D. Evans and G.O. Jones had earlier declared an interest in this item.]

The Board considered the Model Time Off Policy for Schools, which was an adaptation of the Corporate Time Off Policy.

The Authority had a range of time off policies and procedures detailing the statutory and contractual time off that employees may request for authorisation from their line managers. Currently, each of these policies was listed separately in the Human Resources policies and guidance A-Z on the Council's Intranet website and managers might need to check a number of documents to find the policy which applied to their situation.

Whilst schools were able to access these documents, schools' governing bodies would need to adopt each of these policies individually. The Model Time Off Policy for Schools had been designed as an easy reference document to navigate through the range of time off that employees may request.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Model Time Off Policy for Schools be endorsed for adoption.

20. POTENTIAL ACQUISITION OF GUILDHALL, CARMARTHEN

The Chair advised the Board that he was inclined to discuss this item in the public forum and proposed that the exemption be removed accordingly.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the exemption be lifted and the report considered in the public forum.

The Board proceeded to consider a report detailing options for the possible purchase of the Guildhall, Carmarthen.

Following the decision by HM Courts to close the Guildhall building and subsequently dispose of it, several organisations, councillors and the general public had expressed strong views that, due to the historic importance and nature of its grandeur architecture, the Guildhall should be retained in public ownership and kept for the benefit and use of the people of Carmarthenshire.

Officers of the Authority have had extensive discussions and negotiations with the agents acting on behalf of HM Courts for a possible purchase of the building. Following a joint instruction by the Council and the owners an independent valuation was undertaken by the District Valuer and the value set at £225,000. Despite the challenges and limitations presented by the building the District Valuer remained of the view that, due to its heritage and historical importance to Carmarthen, the valuation was deemed to be at open market value. As a Grade 2 star listed building with a lack of DDA infrastructure and with a somewhat restricted layout, the Council's favoured use of the building would only become evident when full consultation had taken place with relevant stakeholders. In order to aid its decision making, the Council has to make several assumptions based on potential service use. However, should the Council decide to pursue this interest, detailed work would need to be undertaken in order to properly ascertain what use may or may not be appropriate both in terms of practicalities and deemed appropriate by CADW/Planners.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to proceed with the purchase of the Guildhall at the consideration set by the District Valuer.

21. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED pursuant to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) (Wales) Order 2007, that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items as the reports contained exempt information as defined in paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

22. WIND STREET - TIRYDAIL LANE JUNCTION, AMMANFORD - LAND ACQUISITION

Following the application of the public interest test it was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED**, pursuant to the Act referred to in minute number 21 above, to consider this matter in private, with the public excluded from the meeting as it would involve the disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information).

The Executive Board considered a report seeking approval to commence land acquisition and the use of Compulsory Purchase powers, as considered necessary, in connection with a key redevelopment scheme.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

20.1 that the commencement of the acquisition of land required for the project be approved;

20.2 that the use of Compulsory Purchase powers as considered necessary be approved in principle.

23. PROPOSED NEW PUBLIC CAR PARK - KING STREET, LAUGHARNE

[NOTE: Councillor J. Tremlett, having earlier declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item, left the meeting prior to the consideration and determination thereof.]

Following the application of the public interest test it was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED**, pursuant to the Act referred to in minute number 21 above, to consider this matter in private, with the public excluded from the meeting as it would involve the disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information).

The Executive Board considered a report seeking approval to commence land acquisition and the use of Compulsory Purchase powers, as considered necessary, in connection with a key redevelopment scheme.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to continue with the capital investment into a

new public car park in King Street, Laugharne on the terms outlined in the report.

[Please note that these minutes reflect the order of business itemised on the agenda for the meeting, which may differ from that on any webcast recording as the Chair has discretion at the meeting to vary the order of business on the agenda, if required.]

CHAIR

DATE

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MONDAY, 19TH SEPTEMBER, 2016

PRESENT: Councillor E. Dole [Chair]

Councillors:

H.A.L. Evans, L.D. Evans, M. Gravell, D.M. Jenkins, G.O. Jones, T.J. Jones,
P.A. Palmer, L.M. Stephens and J. Tremlett

Present as observers:

Councillors D.M. Cundy, T. Devichand and J.S. Edmunds

The following Officers were in attendance:

Mr J. Morgan	-	Director of Community Services
Mr C. Moore	-	Director of Corporate Services
Mr R. Sully	-	Director of Education & Children
Ms W. Walters	-	Assistant Chief Executive
Mr J. Fearn	-	Head of Property
Ms L. Rees Jones	-	Head of Administration & Law
Mr G. Morgans	-	Chief Education Officer
Mrs D. Hockenhuil	-	Media & Marketing Manager
Mrs M. Evans Thomas	-	Principal Democratic Services Officer

Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen : 10.00 a.m. - 10.40 a.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were made at the meeting.

3. MINUTES

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Board held on the 23RD August, 2016 be signed as a correct record.

4. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BY MEMBERS

The Chair advised that no questions on notice had been submitted by members. However, he had received notification from Councillor D.M. Cundy that he would like to ask a question in relation to agenda item 6 and this would be addressed under the appropriate item later in the meeting.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

The Chair advised that no public questions on notice had been received.

6. CARMARTHENSHIRE'S 2016/17 WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN AND CONSULTATION UPDATE

The Executive Board was advised that Section 85 of the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act requires Local Authorities to prepare and submit a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) to the Welsh Government for approval.

WESPs detail how Local Authorities aim to achieve the Welsh Government's outcomes and targets as outlined in the Welsh Medium Education Strategy. WESPs are 3 year plans and Local Authorities are required to review and submit a revised WESP to the Welsh Government on an annual basis.

The Board considered a report detailing officers' responses to comments received following consultation on the review of Carmarthenshire's 2016/17 WESP.

Councillor D.M. Cundy, in accordance with CPR 11.1, asked whether it would be possible for the Executive Board to recommend to Full Council or to a working party to investigate a methodology on how this policy is implemented in law so that it is acceptable for all, allows for a more community inclusive transition of dual stream schools to welsh medium and does not exclude children with special needs or educational difficulties.

The Executive Board Member for Education & Children advised that he had received a consultative document from the Welsh Government regarding the intention to have 1m welsh speakers by 2050. The document outlined priorities for achieving this target and referred to the need to see a significant increase in the number of people receiving Welsh medium education and who have Welsh language skills as it was only through enabling more people to learn Welsh that the target of 1m speakers will be reached. An extensive consultation exercise was planned which would provide everyone with an opportunity to put forward their views. He pointed out that Carmarthenshire has a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and a Welsh Language in Education Forum which monitors the situation and he therefore queried the need for another panel.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to accept the revised Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

7. POLICY ON THE INTERNAL USE OF THE WELSH LANGUAGE

The Executive Board considered the draft Policy on the Internal Use of the Welsh Language. The Welsh Language Measure (2011) placed a statutory responsibility on the Authority to prepare and publish this policy, which aimed to promote and facilitate the use of the language in our day to day work and in our workplace.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Policy on the Internal Use of the Welsh Language be endorsed.

8. BREACH REPORTING & RESPONSE POLICY

The Executive Board considered the draft Breach Reporting and Response Policy, which had been revised following advice received from the Information Commissioner's Office. The draft policy strengthens the Authority's ability to respond properly to data security breaches involving the loss or accidental disclosure of personal information.

As a data controller, the Authority is required by law to have in place the

appropriate organisational measures with regard to the security of the personal information it handles, which includes having suitable policies in force.

Reference was made to point 3.3 of the policy and it was felt that the word “occurring” at the end of the first sentence should be replaced with the word “discovered”.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Breach Reporting and Response Policy be endorsed, subject to the inclusion of the above-mentioned amendment.

9. BREXIT AND THE ITS POTENTIAL IMPACT ON CARMARTHENSHIRE

The Executive Board considered a report outlining the current understanding of the Brexit vote and the potential implications on the level of European funding received by the county as well as steps being taken to mitigate the immediate impact on Carmarthenshire.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

- 9.1 that the report be received;**
- 9.2 that the Authority continues to put pressure on the Welsh and UK governments to ensure accelerated spend and continued investment post Brexit;**
- 9.3 to support the WLGA in lobbying for a guaranteed funding commitment from the UK government to meet any shortfall in the European funding allocated to Wales up until the end of the current programming period i.e. 2020;**
- 9.4 that current projects be progressed in order to accelerate their delivery.**

10. COUNCIL'S REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

The Executive Board considered the revenue budget monitoring report which provided an update on the latest budgetary position as at 30th June, 2016 in respect of the 2016/17 financial year.

Overall the report forecast an end of year overspend of £1,854k on the Authority's net revenue budget with an overspend at departmental level of £2,710k. The Housing Revenue Account was forecasting an underspend of £404k.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

- 12.1 that the budget monitoring report be received;**
- 12.2 that Chief Officers and Heads of Service critically review their budgetary positions and implement appropriate actions to deliver their services within their allocated budgets.**

11. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2016-17 UPDATE

The Executive Board considered a report providing an update on the capital programme spend against budget for 2016/17 as at the 30th June, 2016.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

11.1 that the capital programme update report be received;

11.2 that the virements outlined within the report be approved.

13. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, pursuant to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) (Wales) Order 2007, that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item as the report contained exempt information as defined in paragraphs 14 and 17 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

14. CARMARTHEN WEST LINK ROAD

Following the application of the public interest test it was UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, pursuant to the Act referred to in Minute Number 13 above, to consider this matter in private, with the public excluded from the meeting as it would involve the disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information) and information that reveals that the Authority proposed to make an order or direction under any enactment.

The Executive Board considered a report providing an update and detailing proposals in relation to the Carmarthen West Link Road.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the recommendations, as detailed within the report, be endorsed.

CHAIR

DATE

EXECUTIVE BOARD

17 October 2016

Kerbside Green Waste Collection Service

Recommendations / key decisions required:

- To consider the proposals for introducing a new chargeable system of garden/green waste collection at the kerbside, utilising plastic wheeled bins as receptacles.
- To approve the recommended level of charges to be applied.
- To approve the implementation of the recommended system/charges from Monday 3rd April 2017, this will include the Easter holiday period in 2017.

Reasons:

This report seeks approval to introduce a new chargeable fortnightly collection system for garden/green waste, based on the provision of 240 litre wheeled plastic bins, thereby replacing the existing chargeable collection service that is based on the provision of compostable bags.

This change in the collection system is necessary due to two reasons:

- The configuration and design of our new vehicle fleet that will be introduced in October 2016 does not allow grass to be collected by means of the current bag system. The new configuration will address some practical difficulties with the existing vehicles.
- The potential future change in the form of food waste treatment if we decided to switch to Welsh Government's preferred method of food treatment by means of anaerobic digestion. This would mean a move away from the current practice of co-mingling grass with food waste. This will allow a degree of future proofing, thereby providing more flexibility for us to choose the most appropriate form of food treatment in future.

The recommended changes are set out in more detail as follows:

1. The alternative system will involve the provision of wheeled plastic green waste bins of 240 litres capacity (bins to be green in colour identified by the Carmarthenshire logo and the bilingual wording "green garden waste" or similar), with participating households contracting with the Authority for the service within each financial year for a set fee.
2. The option of providing bins of 140 litres capacity will be available on request for those households with smaller storage facilities, or those that find the larger bins difficult to manoeuvre. However, the charge per bin will remain the same as the larger bin size to reflect the cost of collection.
3. The service will be operational from March/April to the end of October each calendar year so as to include the Easter holiday period.
4. In the first year, the new service would commence in April 2017 to include Easter (in future years it could be as early as March, depending on when Easter falls).

5. The existing service will cease at the end of October 2016.
6. There will be an annual charge for the service. The recommended standard fee for the service is £48 per bin for 2017/18.
7. Payment options will include direct debit (with payments spread over 6 months - April to September), or a single payment at the commencement of the season with a 15% discount applied. The single payment option will therefore be reduced to £40.80.
8. Given the time available to set up the service, it is anticipated that the new proposals will need to be communicated/advertised in December to allow sufficient time to procure and deliver bins by April 2017.
9. Customers will no longer be able to purchase compostable garden waste sacks for setting out at the kerbside from October 2016. No refunds will be available for compostable bags already purchased. We are therefore currently informing the public that the existing bag scheme will cease, so that they do not purchase too many bags in advance of termination of the existing scheme. Compost bins will continue to be available for purchase.

Relevant scrutiny committee consulted

YES - Environment & Public Protection Scrutiny – 26th September 2016.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Scrutiny Committee recommendations / comments:

Refer to Consultations section

Exec Board Decision Required YES

Council Decision Required NO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr Hazel Evans

Directorate:
Environment

Designations:

Report Author:
Ainsley Williams

Head of Waste and
Environmental Services

Ext 4500

E Mail Addresses:

AiWilliams@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

17TH OCTOBER 2016

Kerbside Green Waste Collection Service

1 Introduction

1.1 The Authority will replace its current waste collection vehicles with a fleet of new vehicles in Autumn 2016. The existing collection rounds have been re-designed to provide more efficient routes and hence fewer collection vehicles are required in the new fleet. The new vehicles will also address some current operational difficulties as set out in the following paragraphs.

1.2 Food waste and green (garden) waste are currently co-collected in the same compartment at the rear of the refuse collection vehicle. The combined waste is currently processed via an in-vessel composting facility at CWM Environmental's facility at Nantycaws, Carmarthen.

1.3 In practical terms, difficulties have been experienced with the current form of combined food and green waste collection relating to the open split back design of our existing fleet. Incidents of food waste being forced out at high pressure through seals at the back end of the vehicle during compaction have been observed. There are also difficulties associated with cleaning the vehicles due to the build up of food deposits.

1.4 In addition, we may in future need to consider a new form of food waste treatment by means of anaerobic digestion (AD) - Welsh Government's preferred treatment method. The AD form of treatment does not readily lend itself to receiving a mixture of food and green waste. Separating the two waste types at this stage provides the Authority with flexibility in future to choose the most appropriate form of treatment. In effect, we are future proofing our ability to consider different options.

1.5 In considering the factors outlined in the preceding paragraphs, the new vehicles, which are due at the end of October 2016, will have a different configuration to the current split back twin compartment arrangement. Food waste will be contained in a separate enclosed pod unit located directly behind the cab of the vehicle. Crucially, food waste will no longer be compacted. However, this configuration does not allow green (garden) waste to be collected in the same way as the current method.

1.6 The Authority will therefore need to review its kerbside green waste collection service before new refuse collection vehicles are rolled out in October 2016. The current form of collection will no longer be appropriate.

1.7 Currently, householders can purchase a roll of compostable bags for the purpose of setting out garden green waste at the kerbside for a weekly collection i.e. collection is made at the same time as the food waste collection. Current cost for compostable bag purchase is £3.50 per roll of 20 bags.

1.8 The configuration of the food pod units on the new vehicles do not allow green waste to continue to be collected in this way and hence we will need to consider alternatives; there are three options open to us with respect to the kerbside green collection:

- Cease the collection service and rely on our household waste recycling centres for disposal directly by the public.
- Continue to collect green waste utilising biodegradable bags, but collection would have to be based on bespoke rounds utilising dedicated vehicles and would require customers to formally set up an agreement/contract with us on the same chargeable basis as the proposed bin scheme. However, there are practical drawbacks in continuing to collect using biodegradable bags that relate to concerns over the integrity of the bag if left full of grass over a period of a fortnight. In addition, it would be more difficult to exercise proper controls and checks in relation limiting the service only to those customers that have a subscription.
- Provide a bespoke collection service on a chargeable basis utilising wheeled bins.

1.9 Given the difficulties that terminating the green waste collection service may pose, this report sets out the potential option for operating a chargeable separate service for the collection of green waste and sets out the assumptions and costs relating to setting up such a service. Legislation allows local authorities to charge for the collection of green waste, but not for its disposal or treatment. Hence we are unable to recover the full cost of the service, but this is currently the case with respect to treatment cost.

1.10 Customers will continue to have the option of utilising our household waste recycling centres for disposal of green waste irrespective of whether they subscribe to the new service. In addition, compost bins are available for purchase.

1.11 Disposal arrangement will remain as per the current form of treatment in the short term (composting process), but may be subject to review as part of the wider waste treatment and disposal considerations in future.

2 Proposal

2.1 Basis of service - chargeable kerbside collection service provided fortnightly, operating from the beginning of March/April to the end of October each year.

2.2 Crew and vehicles – two dedicated 15t open back refuse collection vehicles (RCVs) fitted with cone type bin lifts, crewed by 1 driver and 1 loader per vehicle. The vehicles will be hired for 8-9 months of the year. During the period that the service is not operational, the vehicles will be off-hired and the crews will be deployed elsewhere within the service (refuse and cleansing).

2.3 Receptacles –it is proposed that we use wheeled plastic bins of 240 litres capacity (green in colour with the Carmarthenshire logo applied together with the bilingual wording “Green Garden Waste” or similar), with the option of a 140 litres capacity bin for those who find the

smaller bins easier to manage. The subscription charge per bin will remain the same for the two bin sizes. At the end of each season, the bins will remain with the customer on the basis that they will continue to subscribe to the service in the following year. Bins will only be recovered upon notification by the customer that they no longer require the service, or in the event of non-payment.

2.4 Take up – experience in other authorities suggests that about 8.5% of all households have taken up a similar chargeable service, although this does vary. For Carmarthenshire, it would equate to about 7,400 households, but current estimates would suggest that we are nearer half this number on our existing bag system, although we do not necessarily know exactly how many take up this service as thus far the information has not been required.

2.5 Service viability – the provision of two vehicles and four crew members will be sufficient to serve up to about 6000 customers. Any take up above 6000 subscriptions will mean an additional vehicle and crew being introduced.

2.6 Standard subscription charge – three levels of charges have been modelled. It is recommended that the charge to be applied is £48 per annum for each bin. This equates to just 92 pence per week or £4 per calendar month over the year. The annual subscription charges applied by other authorities, based on similar collection schemes are as follows:

- Pembrokeshire, £41.50 per annum
- Bridgend; £27 per annum.
- Monmouthshire; £14 per annum.
- Authorities in England - their charges vary significantly from £20-£120 per annum.

2.7 Charging mechanism and associated subscription – it is proposed that the standard charge of £48 per annum made on the basis of a direct debit payment option spread over a period of 6 months (April to September). For those customers paying as a single payment, a 15% discount will be offered, reducing the charge from the standard charge of £48 to £40.80 for 2017/18.

2.8 Administrative costs – the cost of administrating the scheme, managing the customer base, associated subscriber accounts and the arranging of new customer schedules and delivery/removal bins has been taken into account in calculating the cost of the service and setting the proposed charge.

2.9 Cost to Carmarthenshire – See summary table:

Summary of net costs for collection (subscription rate of £48 (in Year 1):

Scenario	Assumed Subscriptions	Cost £ Yr1	Cost £ Yr 2	Cost £ Yr 3	Cost £ Yr 4	Cost £ Yr 5
1. Full cost - with bins bought from	Yr1-5 @ 3000 subscriptions	136,564	82,523	84,173	85,857	87,571

revenue budget.	Yr2-5 @ 4000 subscriptions		41,385	23,003	23,464	23,933
	Yr3-5 @ 4500 subscriptions			8,881	-1,691	-2,556

Notes:

- The above assumes a subscription rate of £48 for Year 1, with inflation applied annually.
- The service would be self-funding from Year 4 onwards, assuming 4,500 subscriptions were secured.
- If the customer base does not expand beyond 3000 customers, the ongoing cost to Authority will be circa £80-£90k per annum.
- If the customer base does not expand beyond 4000 customers, ongoing cost to Authority circa £24k per annum.
- Total cost of scheme, assuming no income is £281k per annum.
- The figures in the table do not include the 15% concession for the single payment option.

If the 15% concession is offered, then the net cost of the scheme would increase by circa £22k based on 3000 customers and £32k for 4500 customers.

The current predicted waste budget deficit for 2017/18 is up to £270k. This deficit excludes any additional cost associated with the proposed gross collection scheme. However, this deficit may yet be reduced due to other variables.

3 Recommendation

3.1 It is therefore recommended that a kerbside green collection scheme be introduced at a standard subscription rate of £48 per annum for Year 1. Charges for subsequent years will be subject to review and annual validation will be applied. The scheme will be available on a direct debit basis over a 6 month period (April to September). For those choosing to pay the full amount as a single payment, a reduction of 15% will apply.

3.2 The scheme should be viewed as a long term trial to establish its appeal and level of participation. The scheme will need to be in place from April 2017 (Year 1 being 2017/18), to include the Easter holiday period.

3.3 In the meantime customers purchasing compostable bags will be advised of the proposed termination of the existing scheme (October 2016) and advised not to purchase too many bags in the lead up to termination of the current scheme. No refunds will be available for compostable bags already purchased.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?	YES
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IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: **A Williams**

Head of Waste and Environmental Services

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities YES	Legal NO	Finance YES	ICT NO	Risk Management Issues NO	Staffing Implications YES	Physical Assets YES
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Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities.

Change in waste operational policy.

Equalities impact assessment completed on the basis that service provision will be maintained, but provided in a different way.

Finance

The current predicted waste budget deficit for 2017/18 is up to £270k. This deficit excludes any additional cost associated with the proposed grass collection scheme. However, this deficit may yet be reduced due to other variables.

The single payment concession would increase the net cost by between £22k and £32k per annum, depending on subscription levels.

Staffing Implications

An additional 2 drivers and 2 loaders will be required along with one administration officer (initially) to manage the scheme. These costs are included in the calculations.

Physical Assets

Two 15t vehicles will be hired in for 8-9 months each year and new bins.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations will take place as set out below.

Signed: **A Williams**

Head of Waste and Environmental Services

Recommendations / Comments:

- 1. Scrutiny Committee – Environment & Public Protection Scrutiny - 26th September 2016 – Report received with no amendments to proposals.**
- 2. Local Member(s) - N/A; affects whole Authority area.**
- 3. Community / Town Council – N/A**
- 4. Relevant Partners - N/A**
- 5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations - N/A**

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

None

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT

Executive Board
17 October 2016

Kerbside Green Waste Collection Service

HEAD OF SERVICE & DESIGNATION. Ainsley Williams Head of Waste and Environmental Services	DIRECTORATE Environment	TELEPHONE NO.
AUTHOR & DESIGNATION Ainsley Williams – Head of Waste and Environmental Services	DIRECTORATE Environment/ Street Scene	TELEPHONE NO 01267 224500

1. Background

1.1 The Authority will replace its current waste collection vehicles with a fleet of new vehicles in autumn 2016. The existing collection rounds have been re-designed to provide more efficient routes and hence fewer collection vehicles are required in the new fleet. The new vehicles will also address some current operational difficulties as set out in the following paragraphs.

1.2 Food waste and green (garden) waste are currently co-collected in the same compartment at the rear of the refuse collection vehicle. The combined waste is currently processed via an in-vessel composting facility at CWM Environmental's facility at Nantycaws, Carmarthen.

1.3 In practical terms, difficulties with the current form of combined food and green waste collection relating to the open split back design of our current collection fleet have been experienced. Incidents of food waste being squirted out at high pressure through seals at the back end of the vehicle during compaction have been observed. There are also difficulties associated with cleaning the vehicles due to the build up of food deposits.

1.4 In addition, we may in future need in to consider a new form of food waste treatment by means of anaerobic digestion (AD) - Welsh Government's preferred treatment method. The AD form of treatment does not readily lend itself to receiving a mixture of food and green waste. Separating the two waste types at this stage provides the Authority with flexibility in future to choose the most appropriate form of treatment. In effect, we are future proofing our ability to consider different options.

1.5 In considering the factors outlined in the preceding paragraphs, the new vehicles, which are due in October 2016, will have a different configuration to the current split back twin compartment vehicles. Food waste will be contained in a separate enclosed pod unit located directly behind the cab of the vehicle. Crucially, food waste will no longer be compacted. However, this configuration does not allow green (garden) waste to be collected in the same way as the current method.

1.6 The Authority will therefore need to review its kerbside green waste collection service before new refuse collection vehicles are rolled out in October 2016. The current form of collection will no longer be appropriate.

1.7 Currently, householders can purchase bio-degradable bags and place garden green waste in the bags that are collected weekly at the same time as the food waste. Current costs are £3.50 per roll of 20 bags.

1.8 As already stated, the food pod units on the new vehicles does not allow green waste to continue to be collected in this way and hence we will need to consider alternatives; there are three options open to us with respect to the kerbside green collection:

- Cease the collection service and rely on our household waste recycling centres for disposal directly by the public.
- Continue to collect green waste utilising biodegradable bags, but on separate bespoke rounds, utilising dedicated vehicles; this will require customers to formally set up an agreement/contract with us.
- Provide a bespoke collection service on a chargeable basis utilising wheeled plastic bins.

1.9 There would be some difficulty with continuing to use biodegradable bags due to the potential for degradation when in use over a period of a fortnight, resulting in split bags. There would also be less scope to ensure that the service is only provided to those that have subscribed.

1.10 Given the difficulties that terminating the green waste collection service may pose, together with the potential small reduction in recycling (circa 1%), this report sets out the potential option for operating a chargeable separate service for the collection of green waste and sets out the assumptions and costs relating to setting up such a service. Legislation allows local authorities to charge for the collection of green waste, but not for its disposal or treatment. Hence we are unable to recover the full cost of the service, but this is currently the case with the existing service.

1.11 Disposal arrangement will remain as per the current form of treatment in the short term (composting process), but may be subject to review as part of the wider waste treatment and disposal considerations in future.

2. Proposal

2.1 Basis of service - chargeable kerbside collection service provided fortnightly, operating from the beginning of March/April to the end of October each year and will include the Easter holiday period.

2.2 Crew and Vehicles – two dedicated 15t open back refuse collection vehicles fitted with cone type bin lifts, crewed by 1 driver and 1 loader. The vehicles will need to be equipped with on-board weighing capability and will be hired for 8-9 months of the year. During the period that the service is not operational, the vehicles will be off-hired and the crews will be deployed elsewhere within the service (refuse and cleansing). It is estimated that a maximum of 300 properties per day can be serviced, taking into account dispersal throughout the County. In theory, two vehicles should provide capacity for about 6,000 properties, but this largely depends on the dispersal and configuration of the collection rounds.

2.3 Receptacles –it is proposed that we use wheeled plastic bins of 240 litres capacity (green in colour with the Carmarthenshire logo applied together with the bilingual wording “Green Garden Waste” or similar), with the option of a 140 litres capacity bin for those who find the smaller bins easier to manage. The subscription charge per bin will remain the same for the two bin sizes. At the end of each season, the bins will remain with the customer on the basis that they will continue to subscribe to the service in the following year. Bins will only be recovered upon notification by the customer that they no longer require the service, or in the event of non-payment. The only exception to bin provision is where access difficulties exclude the use of the wheeled bins, in which case, sacks could be used. These will only be issued if an assessment by the collection crew concludes that sacks are the best option, so that their use is kept to an absolute minimum. The customer will have no choice in this respect.

2.4 Take up – experience in other authorities suggests that about 8.5% of all households have taken up the service, each one, on average, yielding about 187kg of green waste per year. If this was applied to Carmarthenshire, it would equate to about 7,400 properties and a total of 1,420 tonnes per year. Currently, we estimate about 700 tonnes of green waste being captured at the kerbside, which would be around 3,740 properties.

2.5 Service viability – the provision of two vehicles and four crew members will be sufficient to serve up to about 6000 customers. Any take up above 6000 subscriptions will mean an additional vehicle and crew being introduced. For the purpose of the costing exercise, we have conservatively estimated participation levels at the lower end of the current estimated participation rate.

2.6 Subscription Charge – three levels of charges have been assumed for modelling purposes as set out in the tables in this report. The subscription rates modelled are £45, £48 and £50 per annum. Households will be allowed more than one bin (subscription), provided they pay e.g. 2 bins/subscriptions would cost the householder double the single rate. No concessionary rates are proposed. The charge per bin will be a flat annual fee, irrespective of when within the year customer join the scheme.

2.7 Carmarthenshire’s scheme, based on the modelled rates will be the most expensive in Wales, with the second most expensive being Pembrokeshire at £41.50. However, if we look at Authorities in England, charges vary significantly from £20-£120 per annum. The scheme will not pay for itself in the first five years at a subscription rate of £45. Comparable schemes in other authorities include:

- Pembrokeshire, £41.50 per annum
- Bridgend, £ 27per annum.
- Monmouthshire, £14 per annum.

2.8 Charging mechanism and associated subscription – it is proposed that the standard charge of £48 per annum made on the basis of a direct debit payment option spread over a period of 6 months (April to September). For those customers paying as a single payment, a 15% discount will be offered, reducing the charge from the standard charge of £48 to £40.80 for 2017/18.

2.9 Administrative costs – the cost of administrating the scheme, managing the customer base, associated subscriber accounts and the arranging of new customer schedules and delivery/removal bins has been taken into account in calculating the cost of the service and

setting the proposed charge. The labour element associated with the annual delivery and removal of bins is accounted for by the fact that the cost of labour being included for 12 months of the year with the service operating for 8-9 months. The initial roll out of bins at the commencement of the scheme is included in the first year costs. A dedicated scheme administrator has been factored into the costing calculations.

2.10 Summary - Table 1, shows the total cost of the scheme, assuming 3000 bins are purchased. Tables 2, 3 and 4 summarise the net cost of the scheme for three potential take up rates of 3000, 4000 and 4500 subscribers, with three alternative Year 1 subscription rates. Current participation is estimated to be between 3000 and 4000 customers. The subscription rates applied in the modelling are £45, £48 and £50 per annum.

Table 1 – summary of cost for a collection service, assuming no income and 3000 bins purchased:

Scenario	Assumed Subscriptions	Cost £ Yr1	Cost £ Yr 2	Cost £ Yr 3	Cost £ Yr 4	Cost £ Yr 5
1. Full cost - with bins bought from revenue budget.	Yr1-5 @ zero subscriptions	280,564				

Note – this information signifies the level of financial risk that the Authority is exposed to. Disposal costs are excluded as we are unable to charge for disposal costs. Initial cost of purchasing bins is circa £60k.

Table 2 – summary of net costs of collection (subscription rate of £45 in Year 1)

Scenario	Assumed Subscriptions	Cost £ Yr1	Cost £ Yr 2	Cost £ Yr 3	Cost £ Yr 4	Cost £ Yr 5
1. Full cost - with bins bought from existing revenue budget.	Yr1-5 @ 3000 subscriptions	145,564	91,685	93,519	95,389	97,297
	Yr2-5 @ 4000 subscriptions		53,601	35,464	36,173	36,897
	Yr3-5 @ 4500 subscriptions			22,899	12,607	12,028

Notes:

- The above assumes a subscription rate of £45 for Year 1, with inflation applied annually.
- The service would be in deficit throughout the five year period, assuming inflation is applied to the annual subscription charge and 4,500 subscriptions are secured.
- Disposal costs are excluded.
- Initial cost of purchasing bins is circa £60k.

Table 3 – summary of net costs of collection (subscription rate of £48 in Year 1)

Scenario	Assumed Subscriptions	Cost £ Yr1	Cost £ Yr 2	Cost £ Yr 3	Cost £ Yr 4	Cost £ Yr 5
1. Full cost - with bins bought from existing revenue budget.	Yr1-5 @ 3000 subscriptions	136,564	82,523	84,173	85,857	87,574
	Yr2-5 @ 4000 subscriptions		41,385	23,003	23,464	23,933
	Yr3-5 @ 4500 subscriptions			8,881	-1,691	-2,556

Notes:

- The above assumes a subscription rate of £48 for Year 1, with inflation applied annually.
- The service would be self-funding from Year 4 onwards, assuming 4,500 subscriptions are secured.

- Disposal costs are excluded.
- Initial cost of purchasing bins is circa £60k.

Table 4 – summary of net costs of collection (subscription rate of £50 in Year 1)

Scenario	Assumed Subscriptions	Cost £ Yr 1	Cost £ Yr 2	Cost £ Yr 3	Cost £ Yr 4	Cost £ Yr 5
1. Full cost - with bins bought from existing revenue budget.	Yr1-5 @ 3000 subscriptions	115,803	61,388	62,616	63,868	65,145
	Yr2-5 @ 4000 subscriptions		32,696	14,140	14,423	14,712
	Yr3-5 @ 4500 subscriptions			-1,010	-11,223	-12,279

Notes:

- The above assumes a subscription rate of £50 for Year 1, with inflation applied annually.
- The service would be self-funding from Year 3 onwards, assuming 4,500 subscriptions are secured.
- Disposal costs are excluded.
- Initial cost of purchasing bins is circa £60k.

2.11 The figures in the tables do not take into account the proposed 15% concession for the single payment option. If the 15% concession is offered, then the net cost of the scheme would increase by circa £22k based on 3000 customers and £32k for 4500 customers.

3. Recommendation

3.1 Accepting that Years 1 and 2 of the scheme will be provided at a cost to the Authority in all scenarios the best balance of reducing the Authority's exposure in terms of additional cost would be to levy a charge of £50 per annum for the service.

3.2 However, we also have to be mindful of how the new charge will be perceived and how it may adversely affect take up rates for the service, particularly as the success of the scheme is predicated on securing 4500 subscribers in the long term. Even at the lowest modelled annual subscription rate of £45 per year, Carmarthenshire's scheme will be the most expensive in Wales, with the second most expensive being Pembrokeshire at £41.50. However, if we look at Authorities in England, charges vary significantly from £20-£120 per annum. The scheme will not pay for itself in the first five years at a subscription rate of £45.

3.3 It is therefore recommended that as an alternative to simply terminating the current service, a fortnightly kerbside green collection scheme utilising wheeled bin receptacles be introduced at a standard subscription rate of £48 per annum for Year 1. The annual rates for the following years will be reviewed and validated for inflation. The proposed charge in Year 1 equates to just 92 pence per week or £4 per calendar month over the year. The scheme should be viewed as a long term trial to establish its appeal and level of subscription. In general, authorities that have introduced such charges have experienced a reduction in take up in Year 1 with subsequent recovery in following years.

3.4 It is further recommended that the scheme is offered on a direct debit basis over a 6 month period (April to September), in which case the standard subscription charge of £48 per annum will apply. For those choosing to pay the full amount as a single payment, a reduction of 15% will apply.

3.5 The cost/income model based on a charge of £48 per annum is summarised below, with Year 1 costs in the region of £140k, assuming 3000 subscribers.

3.6 This cost of £140k is additional to the current budget provision, which based on current assumptions, may be in deficit by up to £270k for 2017/18 and does not include the cost of the proposed new grass collection service. The budget prediction for 2017/18 has many variables and this predicted budget deficit could be yet be significantly reduced.

3.7 If the customer base remained at 3000, the ongoing additional cost to the Authority will be in the region of £80-90k per annum. The Year 2 subscription charges will need to be reviewed to reflect the level of take up and cost.

Table 5 - summary of net costs (recommended subscription rate of £48 in Year 1)

Scenario	Assumed Subscriptions	Cost £ Yr1	Cost £ Yr 2	Cost £ Yr 3	Cost £ Yr 4	Cost £ Yr 5
1. Full cost - with bins bought from revenue funding	Yr1-5 @ 3000 subscriptions	136,564	82,523	84,173	85,857	87,574
	Yr2-5 @ 4000 subscriptions		41,385	23,003	23,464	23,933
	Yr3-5 @ 4500 subscriptions			8,881	-1,691	-2,556

Notes:

- The above assumes a subscription rate of £48 for Year 1, with inflation applied annually.
- The service would be self-funding from Year 4 onwards, assuming 4,500 subscriptions were secured.
- If customer base does not expand beyond 3000 customers, ongoing cost to Authority circa£80-£90k per annum.
- If customer base does not expand beyond 4000 customers, ongoing cost to Authority circa £24k per annum.
- The figures in the table do not include the 15% concession for the single payment option.

3.8 If the 15% concession is offered, then the net cost of the scheme as identified in the table above would increase by circa £22k based on 3000 customers and £32k for 4500 customers.

3.9 The recommended scheme will need to be implemented from April 2017 (Year 1 will be 2017/18). However, we will need to advertise the fact that the current system of collection will cease and compostable bags will be withdrawn from sale. In the meantime customers will be advised of the proposed termination of the existing scheme and reminded not to purchase too many bags in the lead up to termination of the current scheme. No refunds will be available for biodegradable bags already purchased.

3.10 A three month lead in period will need to be factored in to purchase and deliver bins by the 1st April 2017, assuming that we have successfully advertised the new scheme.

Appendix 1 – Equalities Impact Assessment

Initial Equalities Impact Assessment Template

Appendix 1

Department: Environment	Completed by (lead): Ainsley Williams	Date of initial assessment: 3 May 2016 Revision Dates:
Area to be assessed: (i.e. name of policy, function, procedure, practice or a financial decision)	Waste Collection Service - Kerbside Grass Collection Service (chargeable).	
Is this existing or new function/policy, procedure, practice or decision?	It is proposed to change the collection method and payment structure for the kerbside grass collection service, however, the collection service will continue to be provided. The change involves replacing the existing bag system with a bin system.	
What evidence has been used to inform the assessment and policy? (please list only)		
It is estimated from typical annual household yields (from other comparable authorities) that between 3000 and 4000 households (out of 87,000 households in the County) use the paid grass collection service i.e. around 4% of all households. It is assumed that the impact would be minimal and would not adversely affect those currently using the service, as the service will continue, albeit collected in a different way.		

1. Describe the aims, objectives or purpose of the proposed function/policy, practice, procedure or decision and who is intended to benefit.	<p>A grass collection service is currently offered on a paid basis by means of customers purchasing bio-degradable bags. It is estimated that about 600-700 tonnes of garden waste is collected from the kerbside annually, which for ease of collection is currently mixed in with our food waste. Using typical household yields from other similar authorities, it is estimated that about 4% of Carmarthenshire households currently take up the service.</p> <p>Looking at future treatment options for food waste, both central and Welsh Government's preferred treatment is via anaerobic digestion technology. This appears to be the most cost effective and hence most prevalent technology available and relies on a food based feedstock, devoid of garden waste. Accordingly, by separating our green and food waste at this time provides us with options for future treatment. In addition, the configuration of our new waste collection vehicles does not allow continuation of the current collection system.</p> <p>The proposed collection system will rely on the use of bins instead of bags and the collection frequency will change from weekly to fortnightly. The public will continue to be able to use our household waste recycling centres and composting bins are also available for purchase.</p>			
The Public Sector Equality Duty requires the Council to have "due regard" to the need to:- (1) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; (2) advance equality of opportunity between different groups; and (3) foster good relations between different groups (see guidance notes)	2. What is the level of impact on each group/ protected characteristics in terms of the three aims of the duty? Please indicate high (H) medium (M), low (L), no effect (N) for each.	3. Identify the risk or positive effect that could result for each of the group/protected characteristics?		4. If there is a disproportionately negative impact what mitigating factors have you considered?
		Risks	Positive effects	
Age	L	Less convenient	System will be easier to	Alternative means of disposal –

			storage and collection will increase from weekly to fortnightly.	use, provided access to collect bin is adequate. Potential increase in home composting, hence reduction in the municipal waste totals.	home composting or taking the waste to the nearest household waste recycling centre. Where we assess that access may prove difficult for a wheeled bin, large bags may be provided.
Disability	L		As above	As above	As above
Gender reassignment	N				
Race	N				
Religion/Belief	N				
Pregnancy and maternity	N				
Sexual Orientation	N				
Sex	N				
Welsh language	N				
Any other area	N				

5. Has there been any consultation/engagement with the appropriate protected characteristics? YES NO

6. What action(s) will you take to reduce any disproportionately negative impact, if any?

- A kerbside collection service continues to be offered.
- Alternative form of treatment encouraged – home composting (preferred method) with composting bins available for purchase.
- Alternative means of disposal is available via our household waste recycling centres.

7. Procurement - Following collation of evidence for this assessment, are there any procurement implications to the activity, proposal, service. NONE
Please take the findings of this assessment into your procurement plan. Contact the corporate procurement unit for further advice.

8. Human resources - Following collation of evidence for this assessment, are there any Human resource implications to the activity, proposal or service? NONE

9. Based on the information in sections 2 and 6, should this function/policy/procedure/practice or a decision proceed to Detailed Impact Assessment? (recommended if one or more H under section 2) YES NO

Approved by: R Mullen
Director/Head of Service Director of Environment **Date:** 3 May 2016

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EXECUTIVE BOARD 17TH OCTOBER, 2016

Affordable Homes New Build Programme Phase 1 2016-2017

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to outline the Phase 1 development programme for new build Council and Housing Association affordable homes.

Recommendations / key decisions required:

1. To confirm that the Council new build programme will begin by developing 61 affordable homes at the four highest priority sites as identified in the report (Dylan Llwynhendy, Garreglwyd Pembrey, Maespiode Llandybie and Pantycelyn Llandoverly).
2. To confirm that the timescale for the delivery of affordable homes on part of the Pantycelyn site is aligned with the school development proposals.
3. To confirm that sites with priority 5, 6 and 7 in the report (Y Waun Llwynhendy, Nantydderwen Drefach and Gwynfryn Ammanford) will be developed in order of priority when funding becomes available.
4. To confirm that the specification used for Council new build homes will be traditional construction, with all new homes built to meet the Code for Sustainable Homes Level 3 plus, Design Quality Requirements and the Life Time Homes Standard.
5. To confirm that Phase 1 of the Council new build programme is procured through the South West Wales Regional Contractors Framework.
6. To confirm that consideration will be given to setting up a specific new build framework contract to procure Phase 2 of the Council new build programme.
7. To confirm that Social Housing Grant can be used in 2016/17 to purchase seven private sector homes.
8. To confirm that our Housing Association partners can prioritise their new build schemes on the eight sites listed in the report and utilise Social Housing Grant to support the development, if required.
9. To continue with a flexible approach around rent levels with Social Housing Grant developments.
10. To confirm that the Council can apply to the Welsh Government to revise the current zoning arrangements for the county, if there is a significant risk of not taking up grant funding and other regeneration opportunities.

Reasons:

- To deliver our Affordable Housing Delivery Plan 2016-21. This commits to increasing the number of additional affordable homes by over 1000 over the five year period. The provision of new build homes will be part of the delivery solutions.
- To emphasise our commitment to providing as many additional homes as we can, making sure we fully utilise opportunities when they arise. The report proposes over 60 new build Council homes over the next two years- our original target in the Delivery Plan was 45 homes over the full five year period.
- To ensure that the new build homes are prioritised in relation to housing need, land availability, site feasibility and deliverability- a key principle of our affordable homes commitment.
- To ensure we link in with wider Council priorities as part of the new build development programme.
- To be clear what standards and specifications will be applied, and how the first phase will be procured, to ensure value for money and maximising the wider community benefits of our investment, creating jobs, training opportunities and supporting the local supply chain.
- To explain where the Social Housing Grant funding will be invested by Housing Associations over the next two years, ensuring it aligns with the Council new build programme and the principles of the Affordable Housing Delivery Plan.
- To adopt a flexible approach to Housing Association rent setting based on the need in the area and scheme viability.
- To be in a position where we can potentially partner with a wider range of Housing Associations, maximise external funding opportunities, share good practice and deliver the solutions that are needed to increase the supply of affordable homes in the county.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted : Yes – Community – 29th September, 2016

Scrutiny Committee recommendations/comments: The report and its recommendations to Executive Board were accepted.

Exec Board Decision Required	Yes
Council Decision Required	Yes

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr. Linda Evans (Housing Portfolio Holder)
 Cllr Hazel Evans (Environment Portfolio Holder)
 Cllr David Jenkins (Deputy Leader and Resources Portfolio Holder)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EXECUTIVE BOARD

17TH OCTOBER, 2016

Affordable Homes New Build Programme Phase 1 2016-2017

The Purpose

The purpose of this report is to outline the Phase 1 development programme for new build Council and Housing Association affordable homes. The report sets out how we will maximise the funding opportunities available over the next two years and deliver over 200 new build homes, with a total investment of over £15m.

The report also confirms the sites available to develop, the specification for new build Council homes and the procurement options available.

The context

The delivery plan aims to increase the supply of affordable homes using a range of innovative solutions including managing private sector homes (social lettings), bringing empty homes back into use, buying private sector homes as well as providing additional homes through Council and Housing Association new build schemes.

We outline how the Council and our Housing Association partners can make the best use of financial resources currently available to maximise the supply of new build homes in 2016 and 2017.

We propose to build over 60 new Council homes over the next two years, further emphasising our commitment to providing as many additional homes as we can, making sure we fully utilise opportunities when they arise. Our original target in the Delivery Plan was 45 homes over the full five year period.

New Funding Opportunities for the Council New Build

The delivery plan originally committed to investing £5.6m into building 45 new Council homes over the next 5 years. Since writing the plan in March of this year, additional funding opportunities have become available from Welsh Government (WG) called the Housing Finance Grant 2 (HFG). The aim of the grant is to enable Local Authorities and Housing Associations to build 2,000 additional affordable homes in Wales by 2020.

In total, the new HFG programme and the Council's own new build funding will generate a total new build programme for the Council of £8.5m in the first two years.

Council New Build Sites

New build feasibility studies have been carried out on land held within the HRA and Council Fund (CF) with the ability to accommodate more than 4 homes per site. The study has prioritised the sites based on housing need, build costs, land availability, new build options and deliverability.

The results of the study are shown in the table below. Based on the Council's assessment of need each development will be a mix of two and four bedroom homes. Our current funding availability would enable us to progress with the four sites in greatest priority delivering approximately 61 homes in 2016 and 2017. The timescale for the delivery of the Pantycelyn site will align with the school re-development proposals. We plan to include this within the contract for the re-development of the school in 2017.

Council New Build Sites prioritised by housing need, development costs, land availability and deliverability.

Priority	Site	Action Area	Number of Homes	Estimated Cost of Development
1	Dylan Llwynhendy	Llanelli & District	36	£5m
2	Garreglwyd, Pembrey	Llanelli & District	12	£1.6m
3	Maespiode, Llandybie	Ammanford & Amman Valley	8	£1.2m
4	Pantycelyn, Llandovery	Carmarthenshire Rural & Market Towns	5	£0.7m
5	Y Waun, Llwynhendy	Llanelli & District	26	£3.7m
6	Nantydderwen Drefach	Ammanford & Amman Valley	14	£2.2m
7	Gwynfryn, Ammanford	Ammanford & Amman Valley	28	£4m
			129	£18.4m

Recommendation 1

To confirm that the Council new build programme will begin by developing 61 homes in the four highest priority sites identified in Table 1.

Recommendation 2

To confirm that the timescale for the delivery of affordable homes on part of the Pantycelyn site is aligned with the school development proposals.

Recommendation 3

To confirm that sites with priority 5, 6 and 7 in Table 1 will be developed in order of priority when funding becomes available.

Council New Build Specification

The specification we use to design the new Council homes will be key to the success of our programme. In order to understand the various new build specification options available, a detailed study has been conducted assessing the different options. The results of the study are summarised in Appendix 1 of the main report.

Recommendation 4

To confirm that the specification used for Council new build homes will be traditional construction with all new homes built to meet the Code for Sustainable Homes Level 3 plus, DQR and the Life Time Homes Standard.

Procurement Options for Delivering New Council Homes

There are three main ways the Council could procure the new build scheme, these include:

- Using the Council's existing South West Wales Regional Contractor Partnering Framework.
- Using an open market approach
- Using a hybrid approach using the Council's existing contractor partnering framework for two of the schemes and using the open market approach for the other two new build schemes

Due to the long timescale required to meet procurement rules, it is recommended that for Phase 1 of the Council new build programme a contractor is appointed through the South West Wales Regional Framework. Before commencing Phase 2 of the Council new build programme, consideration should be given to setting up a new framework specifically for new build. To avoid unnecessary delays and to increase the level of certainty with costs, preliminary investigations to be carried out by Environment Department and provided to bidders.

Recommendation 5

To confirm that Phase 1 of the Council new build programme is procured through the South West Wales Regional Contractors Framework.

Recommendation 6

To confirm that consideration will be given to setting up a specific new build framework contract to procure Phase 2 of the Council new build programme.

The Social Housing Grant (SHG) Programme and Housing Association New Build Sites

The Council is currently working in partnership with two Housing Associations, Pobl Group and Bro Myrddin Housing Association. The SHG programme for 2016 and 2017 will enable both Housing Associations to build approximately 144 new affordable homes. It will also enable Bro Myrddin Housing Association to buy a total of 7 private sector homes. A summary of the current and proposed new build sites are provided in the table below.

The Housing Associating New Build Sites for 2016 and 2017

Site	Housing Association	Number of Homes	Action Area
Thomas Terrace, Llandeilo	Bro Myrddin	4	Carmarthenshire Rural and Market Towns
Llanfallteg, Whitland	Bro Myrddin	3	Carmarthenshire Rural and Market Towns
Cae Bryn Drain, Carmarthen *	Bro Myrddin	4	Carmarthen & the West
Pentrefelin Street, Carmarthen *	Bro Myrddin	28	Carmarthen & the West
Jobs Well Road, Carmarthen *	Pobl Group	27	Carmarthen & the West
Priory Street, Carmarthen	Bro Myrddin	38	Carmarthen & the West
Tir y Dail Lane, Ammanford	Pobl Group	18	Ammanford & Amman Valley
Buckleys Site, Llanelli	Pobl Group	22	Llanelli & District
		144	

** Schemes previously approved and on site.*

Housing Associations can set rents at the social housing rent level or an intermediate rent level.

Recommendation 7

To confirm that SHG can be used in 2016/17 to purchase 7 private sector homes.

Recommendation 8

To confirm that our Housing Association partners can prioritise their new build schemes on the sites listed in Table 4 and utilise SHG to support the development, if required.

Recommendation 9

To continue with a flexible approach around rent levels with SHG developments.

Revising the Current Housing Association Zoning Arrangements

There are currently four Housing Associations zoned with Carmarthenshire but only two, Pobl Group and Bro Myrddin are actively involved in developing new homes at the current time. This does increase the risk to the Council of not being in a position to maximise all grant funding (and accessing any other funding). It also restricts the Council from learning and developing the various skills and expertise offered by many other Housing Associations in Wales around building new homes, town centre redevelopments and other regeneration opportunities, including non-residential developments.

Recommendation 10

To confirm that the Council can apply to WG to revise the current zoning arrangements for the county, if there is a significant risk of not taking up grant funding and other regeneration opportunities.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES – Affordable Homes New Build Programme Phase 1- 2016 and 2017

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Robin Staines

Head of Housing & Public Protection

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	YES	YES	NONE	YES	NONE	YES

1. Policy, Crime and Disorder and Equalities

This report is in line with the recommendation made from the Affordable Homes Delivery Plan that was agreed by Council on 10th March 2016 i.e. increasing the supply of affordable homes using a range of innovative solutions including new build Council and Housing Association homes.

2. Legal

The legal implications of the Phase 1 new build programme are:

- Ensuring that all Council and Housing Association new build homes comply with the requirements set by Welsh Government in the Design Quality Standards. This will ensure that the new build schemes are eligible for SHG and HFG.
- Ensuring that procurement rules are followed which can be achieved by procuring Phase 1 of the new build programme through the South West Wales Regional Contractors Framework.

3. Finance

The funding for the delivery of the Phase 1 new build programme will come from the HRA, SHG and HFG (2).

The current HRA Business Plan has allowed sufficient resources (£5.6m) to deliver the programme of Council new build subject to a degree of re-profiling. This programme is set within context of the overall HRA investment of £31m over the next five years on affordable housing solutions.

4. Risk Management

Failing to maximise the funding opportunities and delivering Phase 1 of our new build programme will result in less affordable homes being delivered to meet housing need in the county. The gap between what is needed and what can be delivered will get larger and a greater number of households will be in a position where they are unable to afford a home that meets their needs.

5. Physical Assets

The Council new build programme will increase the physical assets held and managed through the HRA.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Robin Staines

Head of Housing & Public Protection

1. Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Scrutiny committees will be actively engaged as part of the development of the new build programme.

2. Local Member(s)

Relevant local members will be actively engaged as part of the development of the new build schemes in their area.

3. Community / Town Council

Relevant Community and Town Councils will be consulted as part of the development of the new build schemes in their area.

4. Relevant Partners

Housing Association partners have been consulted throughout the development of the Phase 1 new build programme

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

Staff have been involved in the development of the new build programme.

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Affordable Homes Delivery Plan 2016-20		3, Spilman Street, Carmarthen
Our commitment to Affordable Homes 2015-20		3, Spilman Street, Carmarthen

Affordable
Homes New
Build Programme
Phase 1 - 2016 &
2017

July 2016-
version 3.0

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1. The purpose....

1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the Phase 1 development programme for new build Council and Housing Association homes.

1.2 The report sets out how we will maximise the funding opportunities available over the next two years and deliver over 200 new build homes, with a total investment of over £15m.

1.3 The report also confirms the sites available to develop, the specification for new build Council homes and the procurement options available.

2. The context....

2.1 Carmarthenshire recently produced its Affordable Homes Delivery Plan¹ that will see the delivery of over 1,000 additional affordable homes over the next 5 years.

2.2 The delivery plan aims to increase the supply affordable homes using a range of innovative solutions including managing private sector homes (social lettings), bringing empty homes back into use, buying private sector homes as well as providing additional homes through Council and Housing Association new build schemes.

2.3 This report outlines how the Council and our Housing Association partners can make the best use of financial resources currently available to maximise the supply of new build homes in 2016 and 2017.

2.4 The report proposes over 60 new build Council homes over the next two years- our original target in the Delivery Plan was 45 homes over the full five year period. This further emphasises our commitment to providing as many additional homes as we can, making sure we fully utilise opportunities when they arise.

3. The background.....

3.1 The Affordable Homes Delivery Plan will increase the supply of affordable homes throughout the county based on housing need. It seeks to maximise the number of homes provided by being innovative with the investment available to the Council through its own resources and any new funding opportunities that can be accessed over the next five years.

3.2 The delivery plan takes account of funding that can be used directly by the Council and funding that can only be used by our partners. An example would include the £2m utilised by Housing Associations under the Social Housing Grant (SHG) programme.

3.3 The delivery plan looks to deliver the most cost effective solutions in the first instance which includes delivering 45 new build Council homes. This was based on the financial resources available at the time, being limited to Housing Revenue Account (HRA) funding².

¹ Agreed by County Council 10th March 2016

² £5.6m HRA funding for Council new build

3.4 Since writing the plan in March of this year, additional funding opportunities have become available from Welsh Government (WG) to enable us to build even more homes. This funding should enable the Council to exceed the original targets set in the delivery plan within the first two years.

3.5 Consequently, this report sets out firm proposals for the sites to be developed, the specification and procurement options for Council and Housing Association new build homes.

4. New Funding Opportunities for Council New Build.....

4.1 The delivery plan aims to invest £5.6m into Council new build homes.

4.2 WG has, however, recently announced a new grant called the Housing Finance Grant 2 (HFG). The aim of the grant is to enable Local Authorities and Housing Associations to build 2,000 additional affordable homes in Wales by 2020. The previous HFG grant only allowed Housing Associations to access the grant.

4.3 Carmarthenshire's HFG allocation, ring fenced for Council new build, is estimated to be £2.9m³. HFG will cover 58% of new build development costs, the remaining 42% being provided by the Council. The grant will be paid over a 30 year period but all building works must be completed by 2020. All HFG used by the Council, however, must be included within the current borrowing cap limits.

4.4 The ring fenced HFG will generate a total investment of £5m for the Council. (£2.9m or 58% funded from the grant and £2.1m or 42% funded by the Council through the HRA). This development programme will deliver approximately 38 new homes.

4.5 As mentioned earlier, the affordable homes delivery plan has identified a total investment of £5.6m for Council new build. The current HFG proposals would require £2.1m from this allocation. The remaining £3.5m could deliver an additional 23 new homes.

4.6 In total, this would generate a new build development programme for the Council of £8.5m. This will provide approximately 61 new homes in the first two years of the plan alone.

5. Council New Build Sites.....

5.1 New build feasibility studies have been carried out on land held within the HRA and Council Fund (CF) with the ability to accommodate more than 4 homes per site. The study has prioritised the sites based on housing need, build costs, land availability, new build options and deliverability.

³ This could change as the details of the scheme are yet to be finalised by WG.

5.2 The results of the study are shown in **Table 1** below. Based on the Council's assessment of housing need each development will be a mix of two and four bedroom homes.

5.3 It is proposed that the housing development at Pantycelyn will proceed in 2017, at the same time as the construction of the new school. We plan to include this within the contract for the re-development of the school in 2017.

Table 1 – Council New Build Sites prioritised by housing need, development costs, land availability and deliverability.

Priority	Site	Action Area	Number of Homes	Estimated Cost of Development
1	Dylan Llwynhendy	Llanelli & District	36	£5m
2	Garreglwyd, Pembrey	Llanelli & District	12	£1.6m
3	Maespiode, Llandybie	Ammanford & Amman Valley	8	£1.2m
4	Pantycelyn, Llandovery	Carmarthenshire Rural & Market Towns	5	£0.7m
5	Y Waun, Llwynhendy	Llanelli & District	26	£3.7m
6	Nantydderwen, Drefach	Ammanford & Amman Valley	14	£2.2m
7	Gwynfryn, Ammanford	Ammanford & Amman Valley	28	£4m
			129	£18.4m

5.4 Our current funding availability would enable us to progress with the four sites in greatest priority and deliver approximately 61 new homes in 2016 and 2017.

5.5 The remaining three sites could be added to the programme as more funding becomes available.

Recommendation 1

To confirm that the Council new build programme will begin by developing 61 affordable homes at the four highest priority sites identified in Table 1.

Recommendation 2

To confirm that the timescale for the delivery of affordable homes on part of the Pantycelyn site is aligned with the school development proposals.

Recommendation 3

To confirm that sites with priority 5, 6 and 7 in Table 1 will be developed in order of priority when funding becomes available.

6. Council New Build Specification.....

6.1 The specification we use to design the new Council homes will be key to the success of our new build programme. The specification of works will affect:

- The build and material costs.
- The cost of heating, lighting and living in the home experienced by future tenants.
- Our ability to attract grant funding from WG to help fund the building of the new homes.
- Energy efficiency performance and carbon emissions.
- Future ongoing maintenance and repair costs.
- New build delivery timescales.

6.2 In order to understand the various new build specification options available, a detailed study has been conducted assessing the different options. The results of the study are summarised in **Appendix 1**.

6.3 The study concluded that all Council new build homes should be built to the following specifications:

- Code for Sustainable Homes level 3plus
- DQR
- Life Time Homes
- Traditional Construction

6.4 These conclusions are based on the current volume of homes that the Council is in a position to build and the likely build costs. The average cost for a two bedroom home is approximately £139k per dwelling⁴. If a greater volume of homes were to be delivered timber frame construction methods may become more favourable. The actual construction method to be used could also be determined by consultation and agreement with the contractor during the procurement process in order to ensure efficiencies in delivery of the programme, leading to a potential reduction in costs. As indicated this would be dependent on volumes included within contracts.

Recommendation 4

To confirm that the specification used for Council new build homes will be traditional construction with all new homes built to meet the Code for Sustainable Homes Level 3 plus, DQR and the Life Time Homes Standard.

7. Procurement Options for Delivering New Council Homes.....

7.1 The procurement method used by the Council for building new Council homes could have a significant impact on value for money and maximising the wider benefits of the

⁴ By accessing HFG this reduces Council contribution to 91k per home

investment by keeping the pound (£) local, creating jobs and training opportunities, promoting sustainable communities and supporting the local supply chain.

7.2 There are three main ways in which the Council could procure the new build schemes. These are summarised in **Table 2** below.

Table 2 – Council New Build Procurement Options

Procurement Method	Advantages and Disadvantages
<p>Use the Councils existing South West Wales Regional Contractor Partnering Framework</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This would be a relatively quick procurement process as the framework is already up and running (following the issue of the tender documentation, a contractor could be in place within 2/3 months with a potential start on site within 3/4 months). • The market is currently being tested. • The framework maximises the wider benefits of our investment and promotes local jobs, community benefits and training, whilst at the same time supporting local suppliers. • A number of the contractors on the existing framework have considerable experience of delivering social housing new build contracts for Housing Associations. • More specialist house building developers and contractors may be excluded from the framework.
<p>Open Market Approach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist house building developers could tender for our schemes. • The specific new build tender would be tested on the open market. • It may offer less wider benefits to our investment including creating less local jobs, community benefits and training opportunities and offer less support to the local supply chain. • Procurement process would be far more onerous and over a far longer period (from issue of tender it is estimated that subject to no challenges at any of the stages, it could take between 9 to 12 months to get the contractor on board). • The lead in time from developing the tender to commencing works on site will be more onerous and costly than using our existing Contractor Partnering Framework. (the likely timescale to get a start on site could exceed 12 months). • The 12 month appointment process would need to be repeated for each scheme unless a specific framework was set up.
<p>Hybrid approach using the Councils existing Contractor Partnering Framework for two Council New Build Schemes and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This would enable both procurement methods to be tested and enable the Council to deliver future new build schemes using the most effective option. • Works on some sites would commence relatively quickly. • This approach would enable the Council to gain a better

<p>using the Open Market approach for the other two New Build Schemes</p>	<p>understanding of the new build market.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs per unit may increase due to the smaller volumes of work being procured (i.e. two separate lots instead of one larger lot). • Some wider benefits would be realised including providing some local jobs and training opportunities.
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7.3 Due to the long timescale required to meet procurement rules, it is proposed that for Phase 1 of the Council new build programme a contractor is appointed through the South West Wales Regional Framework.

7.4 Before commencing Phase 2 of the Council new build programme, consideration should be given to setting up a new framework specifically for new build.

Recommendation 5

To confirm that Phase 1 of the Council new build programme is procured through the South West Wales Regional Contractors Framework

Recommendation 6

To confirm that consideration will be given to setting up a specific new build framework contract with to procure Phase 2 of the Council new build programme.

8. The Social Housing Grant (SHG) Programme and Housing Association New Build Sites....

8.1 SHG is allocated to each local authority in Wales by WG to increase the supply of social housing. The distribution of SHG is controlled by each Council. The grant is distributed in accordance with the Councils strategic priorities but it cannot be used by the Council itself. SHG can only be used by Housing Associations to increase the supply of social housing.

8.2 The SHG allocation for Carmarthenshire is approximately £2m per annum. SHG, like HFG 2, funds 58% of development costs, the remaining 42% must be match funded by private finance from the Housing Association. Each year the total investment generated from Carmarthenshire’s SHG programme is approximately £3.5m.

8.2 The SHG programme will increase the number of new build affordable homes delivered in the County. It will also increase the number of private sector homes bought by Housing Associations.

8.3 The Council is currently working in partnership with two Housing Associations, Pobl Group⁵ and Bro Myrddin Housing Association.

8.4 In the first instance, Bro Myrddin Housing Association propose to buy a total 7 private sector homes through the 2016 SHG programme in both the Carmarthenshire Rural and Market Towns Action Area and the Carmarthen and the West Action Area⁶.

⁵ Pobl established in April 2016 as a result of merging of Gwalia and Seren Housing Associations.

Recommendation 7

To confirm that SHG can be used in 2016/17 to purchase 7 private sector homes.

8.5 Both Bro Myrddin Housing Association and Pobl Group can also build new affordable homes by utilising SHG in 2016 and 2017. It is estimated that a total of 144 new build homes will be provided by our Housing Association partners. This includes three development schemes previously approved. A summary of the current and proposed sites are provided in **Table 3**.

8.4 Housing Associations can set rents at the social housing rent level or an intermediate rent level i.e. this will be something between social and market rent levels, through the SHG programme. We feel that we need to keep this flexibility in the programme. Decisions on what rent levels to charge for particular schemes will be based on housing need in the particular area and the rent levels needed to ensure scheme viability.

Table 3 – The Housing Association New Build Sites for 2016 and 2017

Site	Housing Association	Number of Homes	Action Area
Thomas Terrace, Llandeilo	Bro Myrddin	4	Carmarthenshire Rural and Market Towns
Llanfallteg, Whitland	Bro Myrddin	3	Carmarthenshire Rural and Market Towns
Cae Bryn Drain, Carmarthen *	Bro Myrddin	4	Carmarthen & the West
Pentrefelin Street, Carmarthen *	Bro Myrddin	28	Carmarthen & the West
Jobs Well Road, Carmarthen *	Pobl Group	27	Carmarthen & the West
Priory Street, Carmarthen	Bro Myrddin	38	Carmarthen & the West
Tir y Dail Lane, Ammanford	Pobl Group	18	Ammanford & Amman Valley
Buckleys Site, Llanelli	Pobl Group	22	Llanelli & District
		144	

** Schemes previously approved and on site.*

Recommendation 8

To confirm that our Housing Association partners can prioritise their new build schemes on the sites listed in Table 4 and utilise SHG to support the development, if required.

⁶ Subject to reasonable offers being accepted by the vendor.

Recommendation 9

To continue with a flexible approach around rent levels with SHG developments.

9. Carmarthenshire's New Build Programme – Phase 1 2016 and 2017.....

9.1 By maximising the funding opportunities available to the Council and Housing Associations over the next two years we will be able to deliver over 200 new homes.

9.2 New homes will be provided throughout the county within each of our four Action Areas. The overall programme is summarised in **Table 4** and **Appendix 2**.

Table 4 – Proposed Carmarthenshire New Build Programme 2016 and 2017

Site	Developer	Number of Homes	Action Area
Thomas Terrace, Llandeilo	Bro Myrddin	4	Carmarthenshire Rural and Market Towns
Llanfallteg, Whitland	Bro Myrddin	3	Carmarthenshire Rural and Market Towns
Pantycelyn, Llandovery	Carmarthenshire CC	5	Carmarthenshire Rural and Market Towns
Cae Bryn Drain, Carmarthen	Bro Myrddin	4	Carmarthen & the West
Pentrefelin Street, Carmarthen	Bro Myrddin	28	Carmarthen & the West
Jobs Well Road, Carmarthen	Pobl Group	27	Carmarthen & the West
Priory Street, Carmarthen	Bro Myrddin	38	Carmarthen & the West
Maespiode, Llandybie	Carmarthenshire CC	8	Ammanford & Amman Valley
Tir y Dail Lane, Ammanford	Pobl Group	18	Ammanford & Amman Valley
Dylan, Llwynhendy	Carmarthenshire CC	36	Llanelli & District
Garreglwyd, Pembrey	Carmarthenshire CC	12	Llanelli & District
Buckleys Site, Llanelli	Pobl Group	22	Llanelli & District
		205	

9.3 The sites shown will be the first phase of our new build programme. It is anticipated that even more new build homes will be built later in the plan as more funding opportunities are accessed and an alternative delivery vehicle established.

10. Revising the Current Housing Association Zoning Arrangements.....

10.1 Working in partnership with Housing Associations, as outlined in this report, will be a key requirement of maximising the supply of affordable homes in Carmarthenshire. The SHG programme itself generates at least £3.5m investment every year. We are confident that this investment can be increased if we are robust in our future partnering arrangements.

10.2 WG currently determines which Housing Associations develop within a local authority area. This is called 'zoning'. There are currently four Housing Associations zoned with Carmarthenshire, these are:

- Pobl Group
- Family Housing Association
- Bro Myrddin Housing Association
- Tai Cantref Housing Association

10.3 Even though we have four Housing Associations zoned to work within our geographical boundaries only two Housing Associations are currently actively involved in developing new homes i.e. Pobl and Bro Myrddin.

10.4 This does increase the risk to the Council of not being in a position to maximise all grant funding (and accessing any other funding). It also restricts the Council from learning and developing the various skills and expertise offered by many other Housing Associations in Wales around building new homes, town centre redevelopments and other regeneration opportunities, including non-residential developments.

10.5 Whilst we obviously want to work closely with existing Housing Association partners, we also want to reduce the risk of not maximising potential opportunities. Consequently, should we feel that we need a greater range of choice in developing new and innovative solutions we would want the flexibility to make an application (and business case) to the WG to revise current zoning arrangements.

10.6 This approach will also help promote good practice, potentially attract even more external funding and introduce a further level of competition for SHG or other funding.

Recommendation 10

To confirm that the Council can apply to WG to revise the current zoning arrangements for the county, if there is a significant risk of not taking up grant funding and other regeneration opportunities.

Appendix 1 – Council New build Specification Options

Specification	Advantages & Disadvantages
Energy Efficient – SOLCER⁷	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only one prototype has been constructed which complies with Design Quality Standards (DQR)⁸ and Life Time Homes Standard⁹. • End user suitability and performance has not been tested as the prototype is not occupied. • Very energy efficient with good thermal insulation and low air leakage. • All homes must be south facing to benefit from the energy efficient technology installed. This would significantly affect the number of homes on each new build site. • Cost of build and ongoing repairs high. • Technologies used not fully tested in operational use • Potentially long lead in times
Energy Efficient - Passivhaus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design complies with DQR and Life Time Homes Standard. • Very energy efficient with very good thermal insulation, low air leakage and low energy running costs.. • High Build costs – it is estimated that the cost of a Passivhaus build is 15% higher than traditional build costs in the UK. There is evidence, however, to show that there are potentially significant savings over the life of the buildings. • Potentially long lead in time.
Code for Sustainable Homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National standard for the design and construction of new homes and is a tool for improving environmental performance and reducing carbon emissions. • Code 3 is the minimum standard that new homes must achieve. • Code properties will comply with DQR and the Life Time Homes Standard. • Can be delivered through timber frame or traditional construction approaches.
National House Builder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard designs used do not comply with DQR or the Life Time Homes Standard therefore WG grant funding towards build costs will not be applicable. • Lower construction costs experience due to the volume of homes

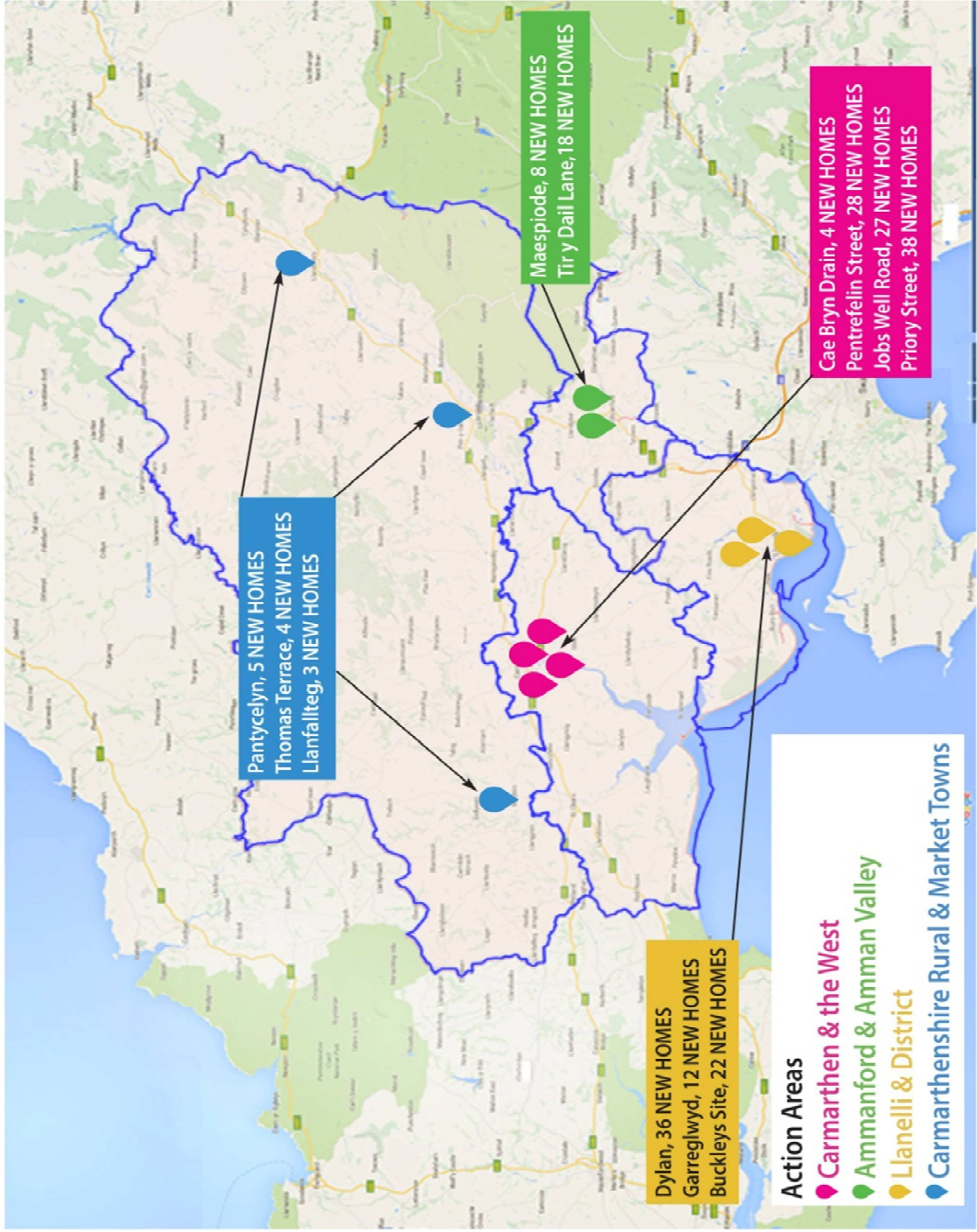
⁷ Smart Operation for Low Carbon Energy Region (SOLCER) – designed by Cardiff University.

⁸ Standard set by WG for all social new build housing in Wales. Homes must comply with these standards if WG grant funding is to be utilised.

⁹ A set of design criteria that provide a model for building accessible and adaptable homes.

	<p>being built and the low specification and quality of materials omitting standard items required in social housing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The volume of homes that we are in a position to build currently, will not meet the volume built by national house builders to experience lower construction cost. • Due to the lower specification and quality of materials the ongoing repair and maintenance costs are likely to be high.
Timber Frame Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designs comply with DQR and the Life Time Homes Standard. • Higher construction costs than traditional construction with the volume of homes we are in a position to build. • Shorter on site timescales than traditional build. • Longer development lead in times than traditional construction due to the time required to fabricate the timber frames within the factory. • Good access required on sites for delivery and crane usage.
Traditional Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designs comply with DQR and the Life Time Homes Standard. • Lower construction costs than timber frame (dependent on volumes) • Shorter development lead in timescales. • Generally longer on site build times than timber frame construction.

Affordable Housing New Build Programme - Phase 1 2016 & 2017



Over 200 new homes will be developed

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Executive Board 17th October 2016

Subject: Carmarthenshire 11-19 Curriculum Review

Purpose: To consider and approve the 11-19 Review prior to:

- Discussion at the Executive Board meeting on 17th October 2016;
- A seminar for Elected Members on 1st November 2016.

Recommendations / key decisions required:

To consider and approve:

- i. The development of a shared curriculum for young people aged 11-19 in Carmarthenshire secondary schools, Coleg Sir Gâr and local training provision;
- ii. The implementation of the recommendations contained within the Carmarthenshire 11-19 Curriculum Review.

Reasons:

To enable the strategic development of a Carmarthenshire 11-19 curriculum that meets the needs of the local economy, communities and learners.

Relevant scrutiny committee consulted - YES

The Education and Children’s Scrutiny Committee discussed this Review on the 17th June 2016. The Review was approved by the committee pending additional comments regarding provision of courses provided through the medium of Welsh. These comments have now been added to Section 13 of the document.

Exec Board Decision Required: YES 17th October 2016

Council Decision Required: NO MEMBER’S SEMINAR : 1st November 2016

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Gareth Jones (Education & Children)

<p>Directorate: Education & Children</p> <p>Name of Head of Service: J.Aeron Rees</p> <p>Report Author: Matt Morden</p>	<p>Designations:</p> <p>Head of Learner Programmes</p> <p>Learning Transformation Manager</p>	<p>Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:</p> <p>x6532 JARees@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p> <p>x6648 MSMorden@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p>
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Carmarthenshire 11-19 Review – Executive Summary

Educational partnership working in Carmarthenshire over the past 15 years has improved range and quality of courses available to young people. It has provided pupils and students with opportunities to take courses and gain qualifications relevant to the local economy and to enable them to progress to universities in Wales, elsewhere in the UK and beyond. The results of this work can be seen in the numbers of young people progressing to higher education and work in Wales and beyond and the reduction in the numbers of young people not in employment, education and training.

However, given impending curriculum changes, possible structural reorganisation and the impact of reductions in Welsh Government funding, all organisations involved in education and training in Carmarthenshire need to work more closely together to ensure that the learning and welfare needs of young people are met.

Delivering the identified 11-19 curriculum models will provide a clear focus for this work and demonstrate the commitment of the Carmarthenshire partnership to delivering educational experiences that meet the needs of young people, local communities and the economy. Implementing the curriculum models for all phases of 11-19 education provides a renewed focus for partnership working and informs the implementation of the national planning and reporting system and possible capital developments in the County. Implementing the recommendations identified below will provide a clear focus for the further development of the Carmarthenshire Learning Partnership and enable the current sector-leading practice in county evolve to meet the changing needs of young people and employers.

Given the strategic case set in the 11-19 Review document and discussions with key stakeholders, it is important that there is a shared vision for the development of a bilingual Carmarthenshire 11-19 curriculum that will:

- Provide 21st Century education which is creative, innovative and aspires to excellence for all;
- Focus on the needs of all learners with quality as the key requirement for both academic and vocational studies;
- Provide 11-19 educational provision that builds aspirations and self-esteem for all learners and ensures achievement across a breadth of ability;
- Ensure choice and flexibility of learning opportunities and meaningful progression to the next stage of learning or to employment;
- Provide learners with employability skills and work experience as appropriate;
- Be responsive to employer and community needs;
- Meet the needs of those learners who have Special Educational Needs (SEN);
- Ensure that the needs of those learners with additional learning needs (ALN) are met;
- Increase opportunities for Welsh-medium and bilingual learning;
- Provide equality of opportunity for all; and
- Provide value for money and maximise the use of limited resources.

11-19 Review Recommendations

To ensure that the full benefits of the identified curriculum models can be achieved for young people in Carmarthenshire, it is proposed that the local authority, Coleg Sir Gâr and the wider learning partnership:

1. Agree the key components of 11-14, 14-16 and 16-19 shared curriculum offers (*by January 2017*);

2. Implement the agreed curriculum model across all Carmarthenshire Secondary Schools, Coleg Sir Gâr and Carmarthenshire based Welsh Government contracted training providers *(by January 2017)*;
3. Agree the revised shared governance and local authority commissioning structure for the revised curriculum offer *(by November 2016)*;
4. Develop a commissioning model to underpin the full implementation of the Post-16 Planning and Reporting system for Sixth Form Provision *(by November 2016)*;
5. Identify shared priorities for further capital developments based on the curriculum models and the needs of the local economy linked to Swansea Bay City Region priorities *(by January 2017 and on-going)*;
6. Utilise Carmarthenshire Education Improvement Grant Funding (or any replacement funding) to support vocational course delivery in the identified growth sector areas (elder and early years care, engineering, energy and environment construction, tourism & hospitality, food and agriculture, creative industries, STEM industries, ICT and professional services) at Coleg Sir Gar and training providers for school pupils in Key Stage 4 and 5 *(from November 2016)*;
7. Build on existing partnership relationships with local businesses to focus skills demands and employability of new labour market entrants within Carmarthenshire to ensure that local demands are met *(by January 2017 and on-going)*;
8. Ensure strong links with the Swansea Bay City Region Economic Regeneration Strategy 2013-2030 to enable a strategic fit with the key economic sectors being targeted and local progression to Higher Education in the identified priority sectors *(by January 2017 and on-going)*;
9. Utilise regularly updated labour market intelligence on which to make informed decisions together with data on sector growth trends and growth sectors for employment on an on-going basis *(by January 2017 and on-going)*;
10. Implement a programme of blended and e-learning learning to deliver the 16-19 curriculum in low take-up AS and A Level subjects in both Welsh and English *(from September 2017)*;
11. Implement the actions identified in the Carmarthenshire Youth Engagement and Progression Plan to reduce the number of young people who become NEET *(September 2016 and on-going)*;
12. Continue to track the destinations of young people to support effective Post 16 and Post 19 transitions through YEPF related work *(September 2016 and on-going)*;
13. Provide targeted support for vulnerable young people including those with disabilities and most at risk of becoming NEET utilising ESF funding via the *Cynnydd* and *Cam Nesa* projects for this work *(by September 2016 and on-going)* ;
14. Support the progress of the most able and talented learners via the Pembrokeshire/Carmarthenshire Seren Hub *(on-going)*;
15. Support teachers, lecturers and other practitioners to develop young people's learning about the world of work through a County-wide approach to the delivery of the revised Welsh Baccalaureate *(on-going)*;

16. Embed meaningful employer involvement in curriculum change, including strong links with key local employers and County Council regeneration departments (*by January 2017 and on-going*) ;
17. Consolidate the existing strengths of partnership working with FE colleges and training providers through the implementation of revised partnership structures (*by September 2016 and on-going*) ;
18. Ensure that the full requirements of the Careers and the World of Work Framework are delivered in Carmarthenshire (*on going*) by:
 - a. Implementing a format for careers days/ week in Years 7-9 involving local employers and LA regeneration departments and linked to local labour market information and JobCentre Plus data;
 - b. Maintaining a work experience placement database (jointly with Pembrokeshire CC)
 - c. Undertaking Health and Safety/ safeguarding vetting for all placements commissioned by the local authorities;
 - d. Delivering an annual Careers conference for Year 10/11 pupils in partnership with Careers Wales;
 - e. Supporting one week of work related experience built into Years 10 and 12, with links to the 3 Welsh Bacalaureate challenges, volunteering and Duke of Edinburgh's Award;
 - f. Strengthening links with parents and carers via newsletter/website, information evenings, parent's evening sessions;
 - g. One to one support with school pupils/students by personal tutors for all young people;
 - h. Developing Team Around the Family and Youth Worker brokerage roles to support transition to education and training for vulnerable young people ;
 - i. Early follow up of young people dropping out of school and college in the autumn and winter terms of Year 12.
19. Annual analysis of labour market information to inform collaborative vocational course delivery and Post 16 planning in the period to 2020 (*by November 2016 and on-going*);
20. Accountability for the progress of these recommendations to be overseen via the shared governance clusters, Coleg Sir Gâr Corporate Board, Local Service Board and the Education and Children's Scrutiny Committees (*on-going*).

N.B. See additional implementation workplan for further details of these actions

Carmarthenshire 11-19 Curriculum Review

Consultation copy – September 2016

Report Author: Matt Morden, Learning Transformation Manager, Carmarthenshire County Council



“The fact is that given the challenges we face, education doesn't need to be reformed -- it needs to be transformed.

The key to this transformation is not to standardise education, but to personalise it, to build achievement on discovering the individual talents of each child, to put students in an environment where they want to learn and where they can naturally discover their true passions.”

Ken Robinson, *The Element: How Finding Your Passion Changes Everything.*

Carmarthenshire 11-19 Curriculum Review

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1.0 Context and Purpose

Education in Wales is in a phase of great transition. Over the next five years, the curriculum offered to children and young people will change significantly. New qualifications will be implemented together with the recommendations of the Donaldson Report, *Successful Futures*. The Welsh Government believes that these changes will enable young people to be well-educated in schools and colleges and well prepared for the modern workplace. However, these changes will occur at a time of reductions in Welsh Government funding for education at all levels and when the future model for local government in Wales is uncertain.

The Welsh Government is proposing that the number of local authorities in Wales is reduced significantly. Local authority services are being regionalised, with school improvement functions already being delivered via four regional consortia. All public sector organisations are being challenged to work together in more innovative ways, with the expectation that their budgets will reduce year on year for the foreseeable future.

For those working in Carmarthenshire education, this collaborative approach is not new. The County Council (the Local Authority), secondary schools and Coleg Sir Gâr (the College) have worked together in partnership since 2000 to develop and implement a range of strategic educational initiatives that have met the requirements of successive, and often complex, Welsh Government policies. These partnership developments have delivered significant benefits for young people, through large capital programmes and high quality provision for learners. The strength of Carmarthenshire educational partnership working is widely recognised as being sector leading, in marked contrast to the open competition for Post 16 learners that exists in some parts of Wales and throughout England.

Close collaboration has been at the heart of the strategic educational change that has taken place over the last 15 years. This collaboration has included the local authority's successful Modernising Education Programme (MEP) and Coleg Sir Gâr's historic and ground-breaking merger into the University Group structure of Trinity St David. Both developments are examples of innovative changes undertaken to improve opportunities for learners at all levels across Carmarthenshire.

Joint planning and commissioning of 14-19 Learning Pathways delivery across Carmarthenshire has been in operation since 2005. This provision is managed through four partnership clusters of schools, the college, training providers and related organisations. The partnership offers collaborative courses in Welsh, English and bilingually to over 900 pupils each year. Development of vocational training routes at Key Stage 4 has been a particular focus of this work.

However, both the Local Authority (LA) and the College recognise that to meet the forthcoming financial, social and economic challenges facing Carmarthenshire, a more visionary plan for education and training is needed. This plan will set out the actions required to deliver an innovative and sustainable curriculum for all young people aged 11-19 in Carmarthenshire in period to 2020 and beyond. This curriculum will be informed by the requirements of the Welsh Government and the regional and local economy. It will also be informed by the needs of young people, whether they wish to work locally or progress their careers elsewhere in the UK or abroad.

Following discussions between the LA's Director for Education & Children and the Principal of Coleg Sir Gâr, it was agreed that, in line with the WG's on-going Transformation Agenda, a joint strategic review into the further development and delivery of 11-19 education and training in Carmarthenshire should be undertaken.

This review will provide evidence to inform a strategic vision of the future of education in the county. It will identify the changes needed to ensure that all children and young people can access "a curriculum that is engaging and attractive*" in 21st Century facilities. This work will be fundamental to meeting one of the key strategic objectives of the Welsh Government's "Qualified for Life" strategy for *"leaders of education at every level working together in a self-improving system, providing mutual support and challenge to raise standards in all schools (and colleges)."*

The findings of the review will:

- provide evidence to inform the future "strategic fit" of education and training;
- Identify and implement a Carmarthenshire curriculum that will improve educational standards;
- Deliver improvements for learners;
- Equip young people for further study and work and;
- Assist employers and the local economy.

In March 2014, it was agreed that the County Council's Lifelong Transformation Manager (LTM) would undertake the review. This work is closely linked to a related strategic review being undertaken by the local authority of the 3-19 curriculum in Carmarthenshire and the implantation of the Donaldson Report recommendations.

2.0 The Methodology

This review is based upon five elements which have been developed a case to identify how the curriculum in Carmarthenshire should develop.

2.1 Background Research

The research was undertaken into the relevant Welsh Government policy that sets out the context for a strategic vision for Carmarthenshire 11-19 education. This work included analysis of a range of policies and strategies affecting secondary, tertiary and vocational education over the period 2000-2015, the extent to which these developments had been implemented in Carmarthenshire and the social and economic context of the county with particular reference to the key employment sectors now and in the future.

2.2 Establishment of a Joint Working Party (JWP)

The Review was overseen by a Joint Working Party (JWP) set up as part of the process to steer the Review and lead in the development of the outcomes. The JWP was made up of the Chief Education Officer and Head of Learner Programmes from the LA, the Assistant Principal from Coleg Sir Gar and school representatives.

2.3 Consultation Process

A range of stakeholders were engaged through a variety of one to one meetings and group consultation. Their views were sought on the aspects of the current strengths and weaknesses of the 11-19 education and training system in Carmarthenshire and to suggest how a Carmarthenshire curriculum offer might develop.

Engaging the key stakeholders has enabled views and opinions to be gathered, assess future needs of learners, employers and communities and ensure that the widest possible options for 11 – 19 education and training in Carmarthenshire were considered.

2.4 Developing the Vision

Following research and consultation with stakeholders, the LTM drew together the various strands, summarised the views and provided a models of the possible curriculum development options.

The LTM linked with the members of the JWP to define the vision for the future, identify the strategic priorities and future needs to ensure the identified changes can be delivered locally.

2.5 Recommendations

Following the development of the curriculum models, a range of related recommendations were identified. These options were evaluated against the criteria set out in the WG's 'Transforming Education & Training Provision in Wales: Delivering Skills that Work for Wales' (2008) and the 2015-2016 Ministerial Priorities letter to assess the extent to which they meet the Welsh Government's requirements for change. The draft report will be subject to further consultation in the period January to March 2016 to ensure that the changes and recommendations identified were realistic and met the needs of Carmarthenshire young people, the economy and the wider community.

3.0 Executive Summary

The LA and the College jointly commissioned the Review of 11-19 Education and Training in Carmarthenshire. Both organisations consider that a shared strategic approach is needed to deliver 11-19 education and training in Carmarthenshire in the future. This approach informs the future plan for curriculum delivery in the county.

In a Carmarthenshire context, the changes that are needed now are not about “bricks and mortar”, either through reducing the number of schools, or by building more facilities. The change that is required is to identify and deliver a high quality, innovative Carmarthenshire curriculum for all young people in the county in both Welsh and English, wherever they may be educated. While this curriculum will be informed by a range of Welsh Government policies, it will bring together national, regional and local needs to set out the education and training available to each young person in the county. This will enable each learner to personalise their education to meet their own career development needs, informed by the social and economic background of the county.

The curriculum is also informed by the needs of the local economy, with the prioritisation of vocational training pathways that meet key growth sector needs together with support for the most able pupils to progress to university. The recommendations in this report set out the actions required to implement the new curriculum and ensure that young people are both well-educated and suitably prepared for the next phase in their lives.

4.0 Background to the 11-19 Review

Secondary schools, Coleg Sir Gâr, the local authority, training providers and Careers Wales already work closely together across the county via four clusters, each with a supporting shared governance structure. These clusters oversee joint planning and delivery of collaborative 14-19 provision. However, it is recognised by all parties that a more strategic approach across Carmarthenshire is required to impact positively on learners, employers and local communities. The development of this strategic approach will also support effective use of resources at a time when the budgets available to schools, colleges and the local authority are decreasing.

Over recent years, Welsh Government policy has sought to transform Post 16 education through collaboration. The aim of this work has been to ensure that resources are more focussed on the learner while reducing duplication and “unhelpful” competition between providers. Local authorities have been encouraged to address falling school rolls by rationalising the number of school places available, often via the closure of small schools.

Since 2009, secondary schools and colleges have been required to comply with The Learning and Skills Measure (Wales) to ensure that every young person in Wales has access to a minimum level of breadth of offer of academic and vocational subjects at Key Stage 4 and Post 16. These policy directions and intentions have provided a unique set of challenges to both the local authority and the college over the past decade. To date, both organisations and secondary schools have responded proactively to these changes and can evidence tangible benefits to learners that have resulted from this work. However, further action is now needed if the local authority, schools and Coleg Sir Gâr are to respond pro-actively to the current challenges posed by Welsh Government policies, funding reductions, local economic priorities and the needs of young people.

4.1 The Case for Change

The current system of 11-19 education and training in Carmarthenshire requires review to ensure that the changing needs of learners, communities and employers are met. Local and regional economic development strategies focus on the need for the development of higher level skills to maximise employment opportunities. Further Education and Higher Education institutions are being challenged by Welsh Government to offer flexible training and support that meets the needs of employers and the key growth sectors in the local economy.

Currently, the twelve secondary schools offer vocational courses at Key Stage 4 in partnership with Coleg Sir Gâr and training providers. Eight secondary schools have sixth forms offering A Levels and vocational courses. Three of these schools deliver these courses primarily through the medium of Welsh, with some Welsh medium provision in the five remaining schools. In the Llanelli area there is a tertiary system with English medium

A Level provision delivered at the Graig Campus of Coleg Sir Gâr. The college also offers a wide programme of further and higher education courses at campuses in Llanelli, Carmarthen, Ammanford and Gelli Aur. Both the secondary school and further education sectors in Carmarthenshire have a strong track record in preparing young people for progression to university, though many of those who progress to higher education outside Carmarthenshire do not return to work.

Additionally, the geography and population scarcity in some areas of Carmarthenshire presents a challenge to the successful delivery of an equitable curriculum for all young people in 11-19 education in the county. While it is clear that there is a need for a sustainable model of 11-19 education in Carmarthenshire, achieving this at a time of reducing financial resources will require further trust and innovative partnership working between all relevant parties.

5.0 Strategic Context – Introduction

The strategic context section sets out how the review fits with the existing national and regional policy. It provides an overview of Carmarthenshire and local contexts. It defines the current arrangements for the delivery of 11-19 education and highlights current good practice and areas for further development.

6.0 National Policy Context

There are a wide range of Welsh Government policy initiatives that have shaped the local curriculum and related resources delivering education in Carmarthenshire in schools, Coleg Sir Gâr and training providers over the past ten years. These initiatives are often complex and in some cases not complementary. However, learning providers in Carmarthenshire have a good record of responding and adapting to the changes required by these policies, with the results being seen in the improved opportunities for learning that have developed in the county. The key policies that have shaped existing policy over the past ten years and that inform future developments are detailed below.

6.1 14-19 Learning Pathways (2006)

The current strength of educational partnership working in Carmarthenshire is built on the implementation of the Welsh Government's 14-19 Learning Pathways programme. Learning Pathways 14-19 was the distinct approach taken in Wales to transform the way in which young people are educated. This innovative approach was championed by the then Minister of Education, Jane Davidson. It focused on the needs of individual learners, their learning experience in formal, non-formal and in-formal education and the development of skills that help them to achieve their potential.

The learning pathways framework consists of six key elements, falling into two distinct categories: Learner provision and learner support. The three elements of learner provision are:

- An individual learning pathway – to meet the needs of each individual, including formal, non-formal and informal strands;

- wider choice and flexibility of courses – leading to qualifications from a local curriculum;
- wider learning from the learning Core – including skills, knowledge, attitudes values and experiences that all 14 to 19 year olds will need whatever their pathway.

Learner support comprises of:

- access to a learning coach – support for learning to be available at greater intensity for those in greatest need;
- access to personal support – to help overcome personal barriers to learning;
- impartial careers advice and guidance.

Implementation of the 14-19 Learning Pathways initiative transformed education and training in Carmarthenshire. This transformation included a greater focus on vocational training routes linked to local economic priorities and enhanced personal support for learners to help them succeed. Shared working between secondary schools, Coleg Sir Gâr and training providers focussed on improving the vocational choices available to learners and shared assessments of the quality of this delivery. This work resulted in the establishment of a long-standing culture of trust between education providers that does not exist elsewhere in Wales. This culture enables the needs of the learners to be foremost in the curriculum planning process.

While WG policy has now moved on from the 14-19 Learning Pathways model, it is essential that Carmarthenshire retains the learner centred ethos and the well-established local learning pathways via schools and Coleg Sir Gâr into key employment sectors such as construction and care. These principles underpin the development of the Carmarthenshire curriculum in the future.

6.2 Transforming Education & Training Provision in Wales - Delivering Skills that Work for Wales (2009)

The key priority of this WG strategy was to secure a workforce sufficiently skilled to access high level employment opportunities in the future. The report identified the need to integrate the work of schools, Further Education Institutions (FEI's), Higher Education Institutions (HEI's) and other Post-16 providers to transform the ways in which education and training provision is delivered across a geographic region.

As a result, learning providers were expected to form geographic and sectoral learning partnerships. These partnerships would be required to plan and implement the improvements outlined in the WG Policy. The transformation of education and training provision was required to widen options available to 14-19 year olds, reduce unnecessary duplication of provision and move to excellence across networks of providers. All local authorities were required to submit a Strategic Outcome Case (SOC) outlining how the required changes would take place.

The report identified a range of possible options for increased collaborative working across providers. These options were to be considered to secure significant improvements in the education and training delivery for post-16 learners and could include informal collaboration, shared governance of local learning partnerships combining the delivery of schools and colleges and the removal of transfer of existing provision for reasons of duplication or financial inefficiency.

The WG expectation was that the local learning partnerships would focus on areas for development where there is the greatest need for an improvement in learner outcomes.

It was intended by the WG that all those involved in providing Post 14 education and training should work together to address the following key performance indicators:

- an improvement in levels of basic skills;
- an increase in the rate of 16-18 and 19 - 24 participation in education, training and employment;
- an increase in overall learner success rates, reflecting higher levels of learner completion as well as the achievement of qualification aims;
- an increase in Level 2, 3 and 4 qualifications; and
- an increase in progression to higher level learning or higher level employment.

The WG's expectation was that collaborative proposals would take account of the relative inefficiencies that occur in Post-16 provider delivery. The WG believed that inefficiencies were more likely to arise when school sixth forms operate with fewer than 150 students (based on Audit Commission research) but recognise that rurality and the need for Welsh Medium delivery must also be taken into account.

The Carmarthenshire response to the transformation agenda was based on the existing strengths of partnership delivery linked to the implementation of the 14-19 Learning Pathways initiative. Since 2009, the partnership is able to evidence a range of positive outcomes linked to this initiative, including improved pupil performance at Key Stage 4, improved staying on rates and a reduction in the number of young people becoming NEET. This work continues to be on-going in Carmarthenshire and will remain as an underlying principle in the development of a local curriculum outlined in the recommendations of this report.

As a response to the wider Transformation Agenda, the WG launched a range of reviews, strategies and policies which included:

- The Structure of Education Services in Wales (Thomas 2011) which recommended the rationalisation of FE Institutions from 19, to the establishment of between 8 – 12 FE corporate entities by August 2013 and concluded that the development of regional consortia was viewed as a positive way forward. Further collaboration and partnership was identified as necessary to ensure that learners in the 14–16 and 16–19 age range are offered real opportunities and choice.
- The Future Delivery of Education Services in Wales (Hill 2013) highlighted Estyn's perception of shortcomings in the work of local education authorities. The Review focused on the effectiveness of the current education authority delivery and considered what should be undertaken at a local, regional and national level.

The Hill Review led to the establishment of four regional school improvement consortia with a focus on:

- raising standards and improving learner outcomes at all ages;
- better support and challenge to schools to improve standards;
- developing and strengthening the leadership of schools and the quality of teaching and learning;
- ensuring value for money and effective use of resources; and
- bringing about coherence and strong links between all areas of the education system, including post-16 provision and the wider children's services agenda.

Details of the work of regional school improvement consortium for South West and Mid Wales (*ERW*) are included in the regional section of this review.

6.3 Learning and Skills Measure (2009)

The Welsh Government's Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure 2009 provided a statutory basis for the 14–19 Learning Pathways initiative. The 14–19 Learning Pathways policy transformed curricula provision and support for learners, helping to raise achievement and attainment, prepare young people for high skilled employment or higher education. The intention of this policy was to enable Wales to compete economically in 21st Century Europe. The Welsh Government believed that including the basic principles of this policy in a legal framework ensured that the policy would be implemented in a consistent way to the benefit of 14–19 year old learners across Wales.

The Measure places a duty on local authorities in Wales to form local curricula for learners in Key Stage 4 and in Post 16 education and training. It also provides Welsh Ministers with regulation making powers to stipulate the minimum number of courses of study to be included within a local curriculum, and the minimum number of vocational courses of study to ensure that local area curricula contain a wide range of options of study both academic and vocational in nature.

The Measure supported the implementation of 14-19 Learning Pathways. It ensured that all learners at Key Stage 4 in Wales are able to choose from a minimum of 25 courses of which three must be vocational and that 30 choices are available to 16-18 year old learners, of which 5 must be vocational. All secondary schools in Carmarthenshire and Coleg Sir Gâr are currently meeting the requirements of the Learning and Skills Measure. However, budget cuts combined with reduced funding to support 14-19 related collaboration mean that it may not be possible to sustain the current curricular offer, particularly in smaller schools in rural areas.

6.4 A Curriculum for All Learners (2010)

This document provided guidance for teachers/practitioners of learners with a range of additional learning needs in mainstream and special settings/schools. It supports teaching and assessing against the school curriculum 2008. The guidance is focused particularly on Key Stages 2 and 3, but will be useful to staff working in the Foundation Phase and with learners aged 14-19 in a variety of settings. It is based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and has seven core aims which seek to ensure that all children and young people develop their potential to the full. This document has now been superseded by the Curriculum for Life (2015) and the Donaldson Review recommendations.

6.5 The Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools and Education Capital Programme (2010-present)

The 21st Century Schools and Education Capital Programme is a major, long-term and strategic capital investment programme. The aim of the programme is to create educational communities fit for the 21st Century in Wales that deliver:

- Learning environments that will enable the successful implementation of strategies for improvement and better educational outcomes

- Greater economy and efficiency for learning environments through better use of resources
- A sustainable education system that meets national building standards and reduces the recurrent costs and carbon footprint of education buildings.

In December 2011, the Minister for Education and Skills announced a £1.4 billion investment for the first wave of 21st Century Schools and education projects. This funding is on a 50:50 match funded basis with local authorities throughout Wales. This funding is intended to create school environments that meet the needs of the community and provide the best learning provision for the area.

WG are currently working with local authorities to deliver the first wave of 21st Century School projects by 2019. However, local authorities determine the pace of delivery of their individual projects. The first wave of these projects was initially timetabled over a 7 year period. The implementation of the Local Government Borrowing Initiative as part of the 21st Century programme enables local authorities to accelerate spending on their programmes and to deliver their projects in five years instead of 7 years.

Carmarthenshire is at the forefront of schools related MEP developments in Wales. Funding from this programme has transformed education in the Dinefwr area, with significant upgrades to the Amman Valley and Maes Y Gwendraeth sites and a complete new school build in Ffairfach (Ysgol Bro Dinefwr). These developments have enabled the removal of large numbers of surplus school places and allowed young people to be educated in state of the art facilities. There have also been significant refurbishments at Ysgol Y Strade, Coedcae and Bryngwyn Schools and at a wide range of primary school locations across the county.

6.6 Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (2011 to present)

At a local authority level, the Welsh Government's Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES) outcomes and targets are delivered via the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. The WMES sets out the Welsh Government's vision for an education and training system that responds in a planned way to the growing demand for Welsh-medium education. The aim is to facilitate an increase in the number of people of all ages able to use the Welsh language with their families, in their communities and in the workplace. The WESPs are a key vehicle for creating an improved planning system for Welsh-medium education.

The Carmarthenshire Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESP) provides the means for the Welsh Government to monitor the way in which the local authorities respond and contribute to the implementation of the WMES objectives by:

- Ensuring that every step of local authority education processes includes full consideration of Welsh-medium education;
- Extending provision where a need is identified on the basis of improved planning;
- Moving Welsh-language support services gradually away from the traditional roles of *Athrawon Bro* towards a new training and mentoring service;
- Ensuring the delivery of Welsh-medium support services on the basis of consortia in the near future;
- Improving standards and extending the use of Welsh by children and young people, and
- Demonstrating progress against the specific targets in the WMES.

Further development of Welsh medium education in the county, including vocational provision, is fundamental to this review. The details of these recommendations are included in the curriculum section of this report.

6.7 Building Resilient Communities: Taking forward the Tackling Poverty Action Plan (2013 to present)

This WG initiative sets out a number of targets in relation to poverty and educational attainment. These targets aim to:

- Narrow the attainment gap at the end of Foundation Phase by 10 per cent by 2017.
- Raise attainment by 15-year-olds eligible for free school meals of the Level 2 inclusive of English / Welsh First Language and Mathematics to 37 per cent by 2017.
- Reduce the number of young people who are not in employment, education or training aged 16 to 18 to nine per cent by 2017. At the end of 2012, the figure was 10.2 per cent.
- Reduce the proportion of young people who are not in employment, education or training aged 19 to 24 in Wales relative to the UK as a whole by 2017.

The Welsh Government's *Child Poverty Strategy* and related *Rewriting the Future* document (2015) highlight the importance of three strategic objectives to:

- Reduce the number of families living in workless households, as children living in workless households are particularly at risk of living in poverty.
- Increase the skills of parents and young people living in low-income households so they can secure well-paid employment and in-work progression, as in-work poverty is a growing issue.
- Reduce the inequalities which exist in the health, education and economic outcomes of children and families by improving the outcomes of the poorest.

Preventing poverty is fundamental to the Welsh Government's vision for supporting low income households. Consequently, WG initiatives to tackle poverty are closely linked to the government's strategies to improve educational attainment at both a local authority and regional consortia level. Work to address child poverty in Carmarthenshire is closely linked to this curriculum review. Targeted activities funded by the Families First and Pupil Deprivation grants play an important role in supporting children, young people and families experiencing poverty. Reducing the effects of poverty is also an important feature of the forthcoming round of ESF funding, with a primary focus on reducing the number of young people who become NEET. These activities will be incorporated into the range of support that compliments Carmarthenshire curriculum related developments.

6.8 Families First (2012)

In 2012, the WG created an integrated, whole-family approach to supporting families in Wales. Families First is aimed at improving the way agencies work together and places a clear emphasis on early intervention for families, particularly those living in poverty, to help stop problems from escalating towards crisis. As part of Families First, Wales is the only country to require all local authorities to operate a "team around the family" model, that encourages organisations to work together to assist families and help them address the breadth of challenges they can face.

The WG believes that the problems facing families are becoming more challenging and services face difficult choices as awareness and demand for support increases. The guiding principle throughout this work is of public services working together to meet people's needs effectively, sustainably and at the earliest opportunity. Families First brings together organisations to work with the whole family, not just the individual. This means agencies realigning the way they work to better meet the needs of the family. It means building on the strengths inherent in the family unit and building a 'team around the family' approach that brings agencies and services together in a co-ordinated way, making it less complex for families to access the support they need.

In Carmarthenshire, the Families First approach has been embedded into the work of the Department for Education and Children through a combination of made and commissioned family support services. These services provide targeted support for young people identified by the Vulnerability Assessment Profile as being at risk of not succeeding in school. This additional support is vital in ensuring overcoming a range of barriers that can prevent young people achieving their full potential and will be retained as part of the developing Carmarthenshire Curriculum model.

6.9 The Post 16 Planning and Funding Framework (2014)

In September 2014, the WG implemented a new planning and funding system (P16P&FF) for Post 16 education in school sixth forms that replaced the recurrent funding methodology used previously. The new system brings funding allocations for Sixth Forms in line with the arrangements for Further Education colleges and Work Based Learning.

The Post 16 planning and reporting arrangements for local authorities seek to:

- improve the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of the post-16 planning and funding to focus on better outcomes and progression for learners;
- standardise the planning of provision across the school and College sectors to improve information to make better informed decisions; and
- focus attention on the broader outcome for individual learners.

From September 2016, Welsh Government have proposed that funding will be based upon programmes of learning rather than qualifications, with each programme having a defined purpose and outcome against which it will be monitored.

The planning role of the local authority is significantly enhanced in the new system, with added responsibility for co-ordinating the delivery of Sixth Form provision. This includes ensuring that duplication of provision is avoided and that the courses provided meet local and regional economic priorities. In FE settings, the new system has resulted in a much more student-led curriculum and removed those programmes run primarily to attract additional funding. This has resulted in a curriculum that is more based on employability and employer need, with the planning aspects linked closely to local labour market information and needs.

Preparatory work has taken place to prepare secondary schools for the new Post 16 funding system. This work has involved collecting data regarding the number of pupils currently studying on each of the funded learning programmes within the new funding methodology. During the transitional period, the authority is using a funding model based

on pupil numbers and funding uplifts for Welsh Medium provision, sparsity and rurality that has been agreed with the secondary school head teachers.

The Carmarthenshire Local Authority Plan is required to be submitted to Welsh Government in April each year and will be based upon the following principles:

- Provision of high quality education for all learners;
- Ensuring equality and diversity;
- Optimising the use of resources through developing models of collaboration and sharing;
- Ensuring provision is affordable and sustainable;
- Promoting the delivery and development of Welsh Language provision.

Linked to the principles above, there is an expectation from the Welsh Government of a much greater role for the local authority in guiding Post 16 delivery in schools. To support this role in Carmarthenshire, there is considerable potential for the evolution of a commissioning model for sixth form funding. This could be linked to the existing cluster governance structure and include funding allocated for courses delivered by schools together and/or with Coleg Sir Gâr in collaboration. A new commissioning model would need to be closely linked to the local economy and sectoral priorities and should include opportunities to expand vocational Welsh medium provision.

6.10 The Review of Qualifications 14–19 (2012)

The Review of Qualifications for 14-19 year olds in Wales (WG November 2012) was launched in September 2011, setting out a vision of “qualifications that are understood and valued and meet the needs of our young people and the Welsh economy.” The review recommended that there is a need to develop a high-quality, robust and distinctive national qualifications system for 14 to 19 year-olds in Wales. Proper recognition of the value of vocational qualifications is seen as ensuring that learners gain the skills needed by employers and the modern Welsh economy. As well as their intrinsic value, vocational qualifications are seen as motivating and engaging for those learners who might otherwise lose interest in education.

The review concluded that for learners at 14-16, vocational qualifications should be aimed at providing a general introduction to an industry sector rather than leading to occupational competence, and should form part of a broad and balanced general curriculum. These should be IVETs (Initial Vocational Education and Training), which do not lead to vocational competence and should only be available to learners at age 14; or level 2 CVETs (Continuing Vocational Education and Training) which lead to vocational competence. Either category should be available post 16. This change should improve the coherence of curriculum pathways.

Where qualifications are focussed on meeting employer needs and have a vocational basis there will be an increased need for these to be delivered by appropriately experienced vocational practitioners, whether this be in school, college or training provider settings.

6.11 Youth Engagement and Progression Framework (2013)

The Youth Engagement and Progression Framework focuses on reducing the number of young people aged 11 to 25 who are not engaged in education, employment or training (NEET) in Wales. This non-statutory plan sets out the responsibilities of the local authority in bringing together a partnership to oversee local delivery of the framework.

The strategy identifies has six key elements that combine to enable a reduction in the number of young people becoming NEET in a local area:

- Identifying young people most at risk of disengagement via a Vulnerability Assessment Profile (VAP);
- Better brokerage and co-ordination of support for young people;
- Stronger tracking and transitions of young people through the system;
- Ensuring provision meets the needs of young people;
- Strengthening employability skills and opportunities for employment; and
- Greater accountability for better outcomes for young people.

This work links with the implementation of the Post 16 Planning and Funding System in 2014, the recommendations of the Review of 14-19 Qualifications in Wales 2012 together with the WG's wider work to boost youth employment through Jobs Growth Wales, traineeships and apprenticeships.

Carmarthenshire has developed a shared approach to implementing the YEPF, working in close collaboration with Pembrokeshire and overseen by the shared two counties Executive Group. The Vulnerability Assessment Profile (VAP) is now operating in all schools. This tool identifies young people in need of additional support, which is then provided by a combination of mainstream services and Families First interventions overseen by the Team Around the Family approach. The VAP will also be used to target interventions funded by the regional Cynnydd ESF bid. Funding from this bid is likely to be available from early in 2016 and will be overseen by a joint management group incorporating staff from the local authority and Coleg Sir Gâr.

6.12 New Deal for the Education Workforce in Wales (2014)

A new deal to support teachers, leaders and support staff with their professional development throughout their careers while raising the esteem was announced by Education Minister in June 2014. The new deal provides practitioners with the opportunity to access high quality professional learning at every stage of their career. This development aims to improve overall performance in the classroom and improve the attainment levels of Welsh learners.

The new deal will be supported by a National Professional Learning Model, designed to improve the quality of professional practice while building respect for the workforce. In return for this support, the Welsh Government expects teachers, leaders and support staff to take responsibility for their own professional learning and to share their knowledge and good practice with others – a feature of any high status profession.

This initiative will also see regional school improvement consortia, through the National Model of Regional Working, working together to provide a national programme of professional development opportunities for education staff. The full local training programme linked to the New Deal is currently being finalised.

6.13 Qualified for Life (2014 to present)

Qualified for Life is the Welsh Government's educational improvement plan. The 5 year plan (2015-2020) aims to improve the educational attainment of learners aged 3 to 19. Key activities of the plan are placed under 4 strategic objectives:

- An excellent professional workforce with strong pedagogy based on an understanding of what works (linking closely with the New Deal, as described above).
- A curriculum which is engaging and attractive to children and young people and which develops within them an independent ability to apply knowledge and skills.
- The qualifications young people achieve are nationally and internationally respected and act as a credible passport to their future learning and employment.
- Leaders of education at every level working together in a self-improving system, providing mutual support and challenge to raise standards in all schools.

The Carmarthenshire 11-19 review is, in part, a Carmarthenshire response to Qualified for Life, given the identified focus on staff development, curriculum development, worthwhile qualifications and leaders working together across sectors in a self-improving system. The actions identified in this review will address these themes and provide a range of strategies to ensure that Qualified for Life is implemented effectively in the county.

6.14 Skills Implementation Plan (2014)

The purpose of this plan was to translate the high-level priorities within the Welsh Government policy statements on skills into delivery. The plan set out key policy actions which will take place in the period to 2016–17. These actions provide the basis for future employment and skills policy interventions over the next decade.

The scope of this plan is aligned to the policy statement on skills and focuses on post-19 employment and skills policy in Wales. However, the Welsh Government highlights the need for close links with the compulsory and post-compulsory education system. This is to ensure that the future workforce reflects government ambitions for a highly skilled society. This includes the development of staff with Level 3 in skill areas that employers value and which are regionally important being a key benchmark.

This attainment target is set alongside the need to improve the literacy, numeracy and ICT skills of working adults to at least Level 2 wherever possible. Welsh Government also consider the need for Welsh-medium delivery of post-19 skills in line with employer need. The plan is underpinned by a series of Skills Performance Measures to be used as the continual reference point when evaluating policies and programmes to ensure they remain on track to deliver the WG future ambition.

They are focused on the following four key areas:

- Jobs and growth - Improvements in employment and productivity levels.
- Financial sustainability - Ensuring an appropriate and sustainable balance of funding is available to support the skills system sourced from government, employers, individuals and European funding.
- Equality and equity - Providing equality of opportunity for individuals in accessing post-19 employment and skills support.

- International skills benchmarking- Improving the skills profile to ensure Wales remains competitive as a nation.

These four areas are the focus of the 2015-2016 Ministerial Letters to local authorities and Further Education Colleges. Given this, the actions identified in this review link closely to the Welsh Government's expectations of learning organisations as identified in these letters.

6.15 The Revised Welsh Baccalaureate (2015)

The Welsh Baccalaureate (WB) is delivered by schools and colleges across Wales. The WB gives broader experiences than traditional learning programmes, to suit the diverse needs of young people. The 2012 Estyn Report on Welsh Baccalaureate delivery established that the majority of students who study the core are exposed to a wide range of topics and opportunities that help them to improve their knowledge, understanding and interpersonal skills. The Welsh Government believe that students studying the WB are becoming more confident, improving their essential and social skills and gaining a better understanding of a range of topics from enterprise to politics and current affairs.

The core at each level is studied alongside a range of appropriate academic and/or vocational optional qualifications. Candidates who meet the requirements of the Core and Options relevant to each level of the qualification, are awarded the Welsh Baccalaureate Foundation, Intermediate or Advanced Diploma as appropriate.

From September 2015, the WB enters a 4 year transition period for implementation of the qualification (2015-2020). This phased implementation is intended to enable schools and colleges to manage the change, develop staff and ensure high quality delivery of the qualification. Welsh Government have set out phased targets for this period, with the intention being that there is 100% implementation of the WB by 2020.

The revised WB is based on a graded Skills Challenge Certificate and supporting qualifications (including GCSEs, A Levels and vocational awards). The primary aim is to enable learners to develop and demonstrate an understanding of and proficiency in the essential and employability skills of communication, numeracy, digital literacy, planning and organisation, creativity and innovation, critical thinking and problem solving, and personal effectiveness. The emphasis is on applied and purposeful learning and to provide opportunities for assessment in a range of real life context through three challenges (Community, Global Citizenship, Employment and Entrepreneurship) and an extended individual project.

The revised WB, combined with the introduction of the capped 9 GCSE programme by September 2017 has significant staffing implications for Welsh schools. The combination of these changes will mean that teaching staff in non compulsory capped 9 subjects will spend less time on their chosen subject specialisms and more time teaching the WB related curriculum. These changes are already affecting Carmarthenshire secondary schools and Coleg Sir Gâr and will impact further on subject specialist staff over the coming years as the WB is implemented for all pupils at KS4 and Post 16.

Implementing the revised WB has already proved challenging during the 2015-2016 academic year. The late receipt of the revised course specifications, coupled with new requirements for e-portfolios has meant that pupils, students and staff have found it difficult to engage positively with the new qualification. Welsh Government will undertake a further

review of the issues associated with the Welsh Bacculaureate early in 2016. It is hoped that this review will address the current problems being faced by schools and colleges.

In parallel with the Welsh Bacculaureate changes, all young people in schools sixth forms and further education who have not passed GCSE Maths and English are now required to resit these qualifications as part of their Post 16 study programme. No additional funding is allocated for this delivery, placing financial, timetabling and staffing pressure on schools and college.

While it will not become compulsory to deliver the WB to all pupils in schools and colleges until September 2020. However, the local authority and Coleg Sir Gâr believe that the WB is an essential part of the developing Carmarthenshire curriculum as the qualification develops the skills young people need to succeed in life, that employers want and that enables effective progression to higher education.

6.16 National School Categorisation System (2015)

In September 2014, the Welsh Government published the National School Categorisation System guidance for schools, local authorities and regional consortia. The purpose of the national categorisation system is to identify schools that are in most need of support and to ensure support and resources are directed most effectively to secure the improvements necessary in the school system.

This guidance explains in detail the three steps of the National School Categorisation System:

- performance and standards;
- self-evaluation and capacity to self-improve in relation to leadership and teaching;
- Improving schools through regional education consortia and learning categorisation and level of support, challenge and intervention.

The Welsh Government developed this guidance with the regional consortia prior to its publication with this information being available to consortia challenge advisers when categorising schools in 2014-2015 year. As of February 2015, 4 Carmarthenshire secondary schools (33%) were rated as Green (excellent), 6 (50%) as Yellow (good) and 2 (17%) as Amber (satisfactory). No Carmarthenshire Secondary Schools were rated as Red (in need of intensive support). This position represents a positive change from the 2014-2015 year, with 83% of schools being in the Green or Yellow categories, compared to 65% across the ERW region.

6.17 Successful Futures - The Donaldson Review (2015 to present)

In February 2015, the Welsh Government published the curriculum and assessment review undertaken by Professor Graham Donaldson, who had previously undertaken similar work in Scotland. The aim of the review was to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the current curriculum.

Strengths were identified as:

- Equity and inclusion;
- The support for Special Educational Needs through Routes for Learning ;
- The Foundation Phase ;
- The emphasis on literacy, numeracy and wider skills ;
- Welsh culture and language ;
- The revised Welsh Baccalaureate.

The review identified the weaknesses as:

- overload, redundancy and complexity of successive modifications;
- current curriculum not enabling young people to achieve identified standards;
- assessment and accountability have become intertwined in an unhelpful way.

Additionally, teachers told Professor Donaldson that they would like to be able to decide what and how they would teach their subjects. Children and young people told the review that they wanted a greater focus on life skills, personal confidence, basic skills, work skills, career advice and well-being.

Informed by this feedback, Donaldson proposed that a new curriculum be developed with the four clear purposes of developing young people as:

- ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives;
- enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work ;
- ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world ;
- healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society;

Donaldson asserts that the current curriculum structure is too complex and needs to be simplified and made more coherent. The current structure inhibits the “flow and progression” in learning and “responsiveness to local needs”. Donaldson believes that a more consistent approach should be developed encompassing both the Primary and Secondary stages, to at least Key Stage 3. He highlights the need for more “imaginative use of time” and an extension of the Foundation Phase approach, where areas of learning are used instead of subjects. It is also recommended that all teachers be responsible for literacy, numeracy and digital competence.

The review advises that the Welsh language needs to be strengthened within curriculum and proposes “that all children and young people should continue to learn the Welsh language to the age of 16”. The need to improve the ‘quality and relevance’ of Welsh language teaching in English-medium schools is identified.

The review suggests that Welsh-medium schools become Welsh language hubs to provide support to English-medium schools.

Research on children's learning progression should be utilised in developing descriptions of expected achievement. They should be both challenging and accessible and offer leeway for students who excel and those that progress slower.

The review suggests that assessment procedures be simplified and that "the Welsh Government should develop an overall assessment and evaluation framework as recommended by the OECD". The report suggests the use of teacher assessments along with external testing in assessment.

The recommendations have major implications for the professional development of teachers and other practitioners across Wales and in Carmarthenshire including:

- the need to extend teachers capacity in Welsh language, health and well-being;
- digital competence, computer science and coding;
- curriculum planning and assessment.

Following the publication of Successful Futures, the Welsh Government encouraged all those involved in education to take part in "The Great Debate" to shape the evolution of this policy. As of December 2015, the full implications of the Donaldson Report on the curriculum in Wales and Carmarthenshire are yet to become clear, though the Carmarthenshire pioneer schools for the Successful Futures programme have now been identified. Local delivery of the Donaldson reforms on the 3-19 curriculum are the subject of a major local authority report (*Palmantu'r Ffordd / Paving the Way*) that is complimentary to this review and the related recommendations. This report includes detailed analysis of pupil data, performance trends and current school timetabling models and thus these topics are not duplicated by the contents of the 11-19 Review.

6.18 Lead Creative Schools (2015)

The Arts Council for Wales's Lead Creative Schools Scheme aims to promote new ways of working, with innovative and bespoke programmes designed to improve the quality of teaching and learning. The Lead Creative Schools Scheme is designed to work with schools to provide the creative people, skills and resources that are needed to help schools address these challenges.

The scheme will use well developed teaching and learning techniques that are specifically designed to be practical and relevant to real life curriculum demands. These techniques are informed by extensive research from around the world into what makes a high performing school. The aim of the Lead Creative Schools is to nurture and develop the creativity of learners so that they achieve their potential, grow as well rounded individuals and are prepared with skills for life.

The Lead Creative Schools Scheme allows schools to enter into a long-term programme that aims to support them to:

- work with Creative Practitioners in their classrooms to transform teaching and learning;
- devise and implement a project or programme of work linked to individual school development priorities;
- find creative approaches to literacy, numeracy and to reducing the attainment gap between learners eligible for free school meals (eFSM) and their peers;
- embed changes in teaching practice leading to sustainable impact;

- put the arts and creativity at the heart of school life; and
- be recognised for their commitment to improvement through creative teaching and learning and the arts.

Funding for Lead Creative Schools comes from a £20 million budget allocated to support the implementation of Creative Learning through the Arts between 2015 and 2020. Schools will begin to benefit from the plan during the 2015/16 academic year. During the life of the plan it is envisaged that one third of schools in Wales will have the opportunity to participate in the Lead Creative Schools Scheme. The Carmarthenshire Lead Creative Schools have now been identified and work to implement this programme will begin early in 2016.

6.19 Annual Ministerial Priorities for Further Education Colleges and Local Authorities (2015)

The Minister for Education and Skills sets out the annual priorities for the FE and Local Authority Post-16 school sectors in May each year in preparation for the coming academic year. For the 2016-2017 year, these priorities are:

- **Jobs and growth** including collaborative approaches to ESF project development, skills performance measures the development of the Regional Skills Partnerships and employer engagement and enterprise;
- **Financial sustainability** including co-investment in skills;
- **Equality and equity** including the Child Poverty Strategy and Tackling Poverty Action Plan, Youth Engagement and Progression Framework, the development of the Seren Network for the most able young people, literacy and numeracy, Welsh Language, Standards, Learners with Learning Difficulties and/or disabilities;
- **International Skills benchmarking** including quality, standards and learner destination tracking, apprenticeship frameworks, Welsh Baccalaureate, the new Welsh Qualifications Wales Body, Workforce Education Registration.

The Minister also required FE institutions and local authorities to continue to deliver adult community learning, to further develop the use of e-learning and to work closely with the regional school improvement consortia in the strategic development of provision. There was also an expectation that all those involved in Post 16 education and training would continue to develop a “culture of transparency and collaboration” and deliver efficiency gains and achieve the best use of resources through this collaboration. While the partnership related work in county is addressing the issues raised by the Minister, the recommendations of this review draw together a number of further themes to meet the identified priorities.

6.20 The Seren Network (2015)

In 2015, the Welsh Government published a report by Paul Murphy MP that identified the factors that contribute to low numbers of Welsh young people progressing to Oxford and Cambridge universities. The report recommended the establishment of a network of local hubs delivering enhancement activities for school and college pupils in Year 12 that will prepare them to apply for places at the Sutton Trust 30 most competitive universities in the UK. Following developmental work in 2015, the Carmarthenshire/Pembrokeshire Seren Hub was launched in February 2016, with 330 able and talented young people across both counties identified as potential participants. A programme of enhancement activities for

this group of young people is planned for 2016-2017, with a shared executive group of school, FE college and LA staff overseeing this work.

6.21 The Estyn Annual Report (2015)

The 2015 Estyn Annual Report includes reference to a number of themes very relevant to this report. Changes to the Welsh curriculum are discussed in detail. The strengths of the curriculum in good secondary schools are identified as being where schools work in partnership with other schools and colleges to broaden the choices available to young people at Key Stage 4. This widening of the curriculum includes vocational pathways linked to the local economy and the role of the Welsh Baccalaureate in broadening understanding of enterprise, citizenship and the world of work. The commitment of high-performing schools to the development of a pupils' broader social and moral awareness and the promotion of healthy lifestyles is emphasised. A wide range of cultural, artistic, musical and sporting activities are also identified as being integral to the development of confident learners who are well prepared for future study and employment.

In order to deliver this wide and interesting curriculum, Estyn note the importance of imaginative planning by senior managers that enables innovation and the development of autonomous cross curricular learning. The role of schools, colleges and the local authority working together to develop a curriculum relevant both to learners and the key sectors of the local economy is highlighted, as is the sharing of information about young people to better track their progress. Linked closely to the implementation of the four core purposes of Successful Futures, Estyn note that schools should be preparing for the implementation of the new curriculum by building on the existing good practice identified in curriculum design and development. As later sections in this review will note, much of this practice already exists in Carmarthenshire, leaving the county well placed to develop an innovative approach to local curriculum development.

6.22 National Strategies – A Summary

The past 15 years have seen successive attempts by the WG to transform the delivery and provision of 11-19 education and training through new policies, strategies and legislation. During this period, Welsh Government initiatives have sought to:

- support and challenge to schools and colleges to improve standards and learner outcomes;
- tackle the causes and effects of poverty on children and families;
- develop and strengthen the leadership of schools and colleges;
- ensure value for money and effective use of resources;
- bring about coherence and strong links between all areas of the Post-16 provision;
- facilitate a process of merger and collaboration;
- increase the amount of Welsh Medium provision;
- address falling rolls within schools through a rationalisation of school places; and
- bring FE and Schools Post 16 delivery under the same funding regime.

While these aims are commendable, the diverse and sometimes unconnected nature of Welsh Government policy presents a significant challenge to successfully implementing these policies at a county level. Implementing these changes regionally and across local authority boundaries is even more challenging.

Much of this work has, and continues to be, funded by individual WG grants tied to strict funding criteria. In recent years, some of these grants have been administered on a regional basis, which requires additional bureaucracy in order to manage resources effectively. Differing approaches at a local authority level can also make the development of a consistent regional approach to WG priorities difficult. However, given the joined-up approaches to 11-19 curriculum development that already exist in Carmarthenshire, this review will identify how these challenges can continue to be overcome to meet the needs of children, young people, families, communities and the local economy in Carmarthenshire.

7.0 The Regional Context

Both the Carmarthenshire County Council and Coleg Sir Gâr are committed to regional working and the development of a coherent strategy to better deliver education and training for young people. This commitment is seen in the considerable staff time and effort devoted to regional activities as part of the “day job” of senior staff from both organisations. There are three main existing groups that facilitate the delivery of regional working.

7.1 The Regional Learning Partnership

The Regional Learning Partnership (RLP) is a strategic partnership of education and regeneration partners in south west and central Wales working to deliver: skills for jobs and growth, skills that respond to local needs, skills that employers value and skills for employment. The partnership is made up of key representatives from local government, higher education, further education, third sector, and private sector across Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire, Powys and Swansea.

7.1.1 The Regional Delivery Plan for Employment & Skills for South West and Central Wales

The Welsh Government’s Department for Education and Skills (DfES) has developed a strategic approach to the delivery of employment and skills support for both individuals and businesses, which will provide a basis for the future utilisation of European Structural Funds and other sources of funding. In response to this approach to the employment and skills agenda, the RLP has facilitated the development of a Regional Delivery Plan for Employment and Skills for South West & Central Wales that is aligned strategically with what is outlined in the National Policy Statement on Skills (published January 2014) and subsequent Implementation Plan (published July 2014).

The plan is also seeking to align with the priorities of the Swansea Bay City Region and the Growing Mid Wales development, to enable the provision of skills and learning to meet the needs of the region’s economic and labour market over the next ten years and beyond.

In October 2014, the Deputy Minister for Skills and Technology, Julie James AM, formally announced the regional skills partnership structures that will develop and publish annual regional employment and skills plans which will identify investment priorities as well as local demands and opportunities. The fourth version of the plan was submitted to the Welsh Government in March 2015, with a revised annual submission required by March 2016.

The RLP is facilitating the development of regional interventions via four framework groups – Regional Young People, Regional Adult Employability, Regional Skills for Growth and Regional Entrepreneurship. The interventions are based on evidence of regional skills and employment needs, and complement the national schemes. This includes a range of workforce up-skilling provision and support for entry into, and progression within the workplace, responding to specific regional economic conditions and priorities. It also includes regionally-focused youth engagement activities.

The frameworks have been developed by the RLP to establish a co-ordinated approach, reduce project duplication and establish referral mechanisms. Each framework is a strategic approach to addressing a particular theme or cohort of participants under which a number of national, regional and local projects will sit.

To avoid duplication and identify gaps in activity, projects being delivered by national organisations e.g. Welsh Government are included in the frameworks. As external funding bids are approved, the frameworks will be used in future as a tool to identify emerging demand, existing provision and skills gaps. The Welsh Government requested that each regional skills partnership develops Demand & Supply Assessments to support the implementation of the Regional Delivery Plans by September 2015.

The Welsh Government's Skills Implementation Plan set out a key role for regional skills partnerships in providing a mechanism to advise Welsh Government on future regional prioritisation of skills funding in line with employment and skills needs. The Demand & Supply Assessment for each region is the mechanism for partnerships to provide this evidence base to the Welsh Government. It also offers an opportunity to influence the prioritisation of funding in key areas.

The focus for the first year of Demand / Supply Assessments will be; Work Based Learning Allocations including Apprenticeships 2016 – 17 and Further Education Deployment of Funds 2016 – 17 (Post 16). The Assessments will focus on 3-4 key priorities to influence Apprenticeship allocation and Further Education deployment of funds. Welsh Government will then feedback to the regional skills partnerships by July 2016 on how funding allocations have been influenced as a result of the Demand & Supply Assessment process as well as ways in which the process being piloted for the 2016-17 allocations can be improved for future years.

A task and finish group will be established comprising of representation from the region's Further Education Institutions and Work Based Learning Contract Holders. The assessment will be split into two to reflect the geographies of Growing Mid Wales and the Swansea Bay City Region Board.

7.2 The Swansea Bay City Region

The Swansea Bay City Region (SBCR) was launched in July 2013 and covers the four Local Authority areas of Neath Port Talbot, Swansea, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire. Working together as a City Region offers these local authority areas a new approach to economic regeneration including:

- Larger and more efficient labour markets and therefore better prospects for job creation;
- Scope for better planning of housing, transport, support for business and other services beyond existing administrative boundaries;
- Better prospects for attracting investment, innovation and value added economic activity.

The aim of the SBCR is for South West Wales to be a confident, ambitious and connected European City Region by 2030, recognised internationally for its emerging knowledge and innovation economy. The key high level target of the Strategy is that by 2030 productivity levels in the Swansea Bay City Region are once again at 90% of the UK level.

The associated SBCR Economic Regeneration Strategy 2013-2030 highlights concerns regarding skill levels in the region, stating that: *“There are major [skills] deficits across our City Region. We have insufficient people with higher level qualifications and too many people with no qualifications at all”*. In Carmarthenshire, 23.9% of the population have qualifications at level 4 and above compared with a Welsh average of 30.3%, while 26.8% of the population have no qualifications at all, compared with 11.4% nationally (2011 Census, ONS).

The Regional Development Plan will implement Strategic Aim 2 (supporting the development of a skilled and ambitious workforce across SWW) of the Swansea Bay City Region Economic Regeneration Strategy (p23). The key priorities within this aim are:

- Building skills in education;
- Transition into work;
- Raising demand and improving skills.

The SBCR strategy states that one of the objectives should be to “ensure that further and higher education provision in the city region offers flexible support that is fully aligned to and shaped by the needs of employers and the key knowledge-based growth sectors in the local economy.”

Furthermore, the Strategy requires a focus on “improving attainment and ambitions in our low performing schools to ensure that young people leave the education system with the skills and qualifications that will let them progress to high quality employment”. The sectors of advanced manufacturing, creative, energy and environment, food (including agriculture), ICT, financial and professional Services, life sciences and tourism are identified as key to the prosperity of the city region. The Strategy also aligns to the priorities in the neighbouring Ceredigion and Powys regeneration strategies.

Possible future capital developments at Coleg Sir Gâr are already aligned to the priorities of the Swansea Bay City Region. The overall development of 11-19 education and training in Carmarthenshire must be considered in this wider regional context and will be informed by the work of the Swansea Bay City Region to date and in the future.

7.3 The ERW Consortium Regional School Improvement Service

In February 2014, the Welsh Government published its 'National Model for Regional Working'. This national model outlined the vision for regional school improvement consortia as well as the respective roles of each tier (schools, local authorities, regional consortia and the Welsh Government) within the education system (Welsh Government, 2014a).

The national model covers the following elements in five key sections:

1. the mission, values and principles of effective school improvement;
2. the scope of regional consortia;
3. delivery of respective regional consortia and local authority functions ;
4. governance and accountability ;
5. the organisation and operation of consortia ;

Following the release of the National Model for School Improvement, the ERW Consortium was reformed in April 2014. The Consortium comprises of six Local Authorities; Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire, Powys, the County Borough of Neath Port Talbot and the City and County of Swansea. The purpose of ERW is to deliver a single consistent and integrated professional school improvement service for children and young people in a range of settings within the six Local Authorities. ERW's priorities for 2015-2018 are Leading Learning, Teaching and Learning and Support for Learning. These are supported by cross cutting work streams to be amended yearly depending on operational changes and needs.

School improvement services are delivered through a 'hub' model structure. Locally, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire local authorities are working together to challenge the performance of schools and improve teaching and learning. The consortium hub provides a school improvement service to 192 schools, with work overseen by a shared Head of Service role. Teams deliver initial challenge and intervention within defined areas and work with multidisciplinary specialists. Improving the leadership of schools is a key task across the hub, as is the work of Challenge Advisors in brokering a range of support and furthering the school to school support agenda. Hub challenge advisors also work across the region in line with the RISIS agreement to which both authorities are party.

7.4 The Cynnydd and Cam Nesa Regional ESF Projects

Following the ending of the Engage regional NEET reduction ESF project in 2014, partners across south west Wales have been working on a bid for a successor project within the EU programme for West Wales and the Valleys 2016-2020. Pembrokeshire County Council have led the bidding process for the new project (Cynnydd) which involves Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot, Swansea and Ceredigion County Councils, together with the FE colleges in each of these areas and Careers Wales. While delays in programme approval have meant that the original submission planned start dates in 2015 have now passed, an £18M bid will be submitted to the Wales European Funding Unit (WEFO) in March 2015, with the project launch anticipated for April 2016. In Carmarthenshire, the Cynnydd bid is likely to bring an additional £2M of ESF funding to be used for youth support systems to prevent young people aged 11-19 in schools and Coleg Sir Gâr becoming NEET.

In addition to the Cynnydd Project, a further regional bid (Cam Nesa) is in development for additional ESF resources to support young people aged 16-25 who are currently NEET in Carmarthenshire. It is anticipated that this bid will be submitted to WEFO in the summer of 2016.

7.5 Regional Context – Conclusion

Regional working to improve education and economic development demonstrates the delivery of national priorities in action, through a wide variety of collaborative arrangements. These arrangements seek to improve quality, create efficiencies, and provide a single 'route map' as a focus for delivery. Overarching the regional agenda is The Swansea Bay Region Economic Regeneration Strategy 2013-2030. The focus of this strategy is on skills development, maximising employment opportunities and providing a continuum of learning from schools into further and higher education to promote awareness of the value of up-skilling and the progression opportunities for further training. These regional developments link closely with partnership initiatives at a local authority level that aim to improve the quality of life and work in Carmarthenshire.

8.0 The local context: A Carmarthenshire Overview

Carmarthenshire is the third largest county in Wales by area (2365 square kilometres) and the fourth largest county by population (184,681). While Carmarthenshire is a mainly rural county with a population density in 2012 of 76.7 people per square kilometres (ranking 19 in Wales), Llanelli is the fifth largest urban area in Wales and there are significant populations located in the towns of Carmarthen, Ammanford and Burry Port.

Carmarthenshire has a rich cultural heritage and its own identity which sets the county apart. The county has the highest number of Welsh speakers in Wales and has developed its own Welsh Language Strategy in partnership with many organisations to secure a sustainable future for the language. The Welsh language plays a key role in Carmarthenshire life with 43.9% of the population over the age of 3 being Welsh speakers and 58.1% of the population have one of more skill in Welsh.

Statistics Wales forecast that the number of people in Carmarthenshire will increase by approximately 14,000 (7.7%) to 198,000 in 2026, though much of this increase is a function of an aging population. Currently, young people (0-18) make up 21% of the total population, with 57% of people aged 19-64 and 22% being 65 and over. Overall GVA growth in South West Wales has been consistently below that of the UK and Wales over the past two decades with 38% of households in Carmarthenshire defined as living in poverty. As of March 2011 there were 8,430 registered business units in Carmarthenshire. Of these 76% were small businesses with 4 or less employees which is above the all Wales rate of 66.4%.

WG's projections indicate a small decline (1.7%) in the population aged 0-15 between 2008 (22,187) and 2023 (21,799). In relation to those aged 16-64, there is a decline of 1.5% between 2008 (70,871) and 2023 (69,818). The secondary school population is predicted to rise by 337 from January 2015 (11,278) to January 2021 (11,615). The school sixth form population is projected to decrease by 144 in the period from January 2014 to January 2020 (13,331 pupils to 11,615 pupils).

Carmarthenshire has areas that have significant levels of deprivation. Results from the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) in 2014 show that the county has 25 areas that are within the 30% most deprived wards in Wales. The majority of these areas (60%) are located in the Llanelli region (15) with 20% in the Amman area (5), 12% in the Gwendraeth area (3) and 8% located in the Carmarthen area (2). Within Carmarthenshire, 18% of pupils between the ages of 5 and 15 are entitled to free school meals in comparison with the all-Wales figure of 19.7%.

In 2012, the principal employment sectors in Carmarthenshire by number of full and part-time staff were health (12,500 employees), retail (8,500), agriculture, forestry & fishing (7,391), education (6,400), manufacturing (6,100) and public administration (4,700).

The principal business sectors in Carmarthenshire in 2013 were agriculture, forestry and fishing (2,140 business units), retail (850), construction (770), professional, scientific and technical (525), accommodation and food services (520). The majority of Carmarthenshire's businesses are micro and small to medium enterprises (SMEs). Thus the need to promote and support enterprise, innovation and entrepreneurship is vital. In 2012, 70% of the employment in Carmarthenshire was in the private sector. The Welsh Government priority sector with the greatest number of business units locally in 2012 was food and farming (2,170).

Total employment is projected to vary during the period 2013 to 2030, with a period low of 72,700 in 2015, before increasing through to a high of 78,400 in 2030. The projected increase in total employment from 2013 to 2030 is 5,600. The principal sectors for projected job growth by 2030 are health (8,900), retail trade (8,600), education (7,100), construction (6,700), and residential & social (6,600). The total number of people claiming key out of work benefits is lower than the Welsh average: 1.6% in Carmarthenshire against 1.9% in Wales. Of those claiming job seekers allowance, 2.8% are in the 18-24 age cohort, compared with a Welsh average of 2.7%.

Data for the 2014-2015 period months shows a -9.6% (-194) decline in the number of JSA claimants in Carmarthenshire from 2,019 in November 2014 to 1,825 in November 2015. Figures for Wales for the same period show a -22% decrease, Carmarthenshire is now ranked as the 6^h lowest Authority in Wales for JSA Claimants (figures worked out at working age population 16-64).

The Welsh Government projects that the number of households in the county will increase from 81,102 in 2015 to 85,408 by 2023. It is probable that this rise in population will be caused largely by an increase in the number of people of pensionable age (over 65+). While the population of Carmarthenshire is predicted to grow, much of this growth is in people of retirement age and those who are economically inactive. Thus to ensure the future prosperity of the Carmarthenshire, there is an imperative to educate and train young people to meet future economic and social needs. Despite current initiatives to retain young people in the county, significant numbers leave the area for higher education and/or to access employment opportunities. There are also issues with some young people not having the skills or interest to take up the jobs that are available in some key sectors locally.

8.1 Carmarthenshire Local Service Board

The **Local Service Board (LSB)** is a voluntary arrangement which brings together leaders and chief executives from key organisations, representatives from voluntary and community sectors, and a senior civil servant from the Welsh Government. Its purpose is to plan services and overcome barriers and blockages to ensure that all the organisations which provide services within Carmarthenshire do so in a way that puts the customer first. The voluntary sector representatives ensure that local communities have a voice, whilst the senior civil servant from the Welsh Government offers a link between local, regional and national interests.

The board meets every 2 months and is chaired by Barry Liles, the Principal of Coleg Sir Gâr. The Local Service Board is part of the wider network of partnerships known collectively as the Carmarthenshire Partnership. It oversees the development and delivery of the Integrated Community Strategy for Carmarthenshire 2011-2016 and reports to an Annual Forum on progress. Outcome 2 of the Integrated Community Strategy highlights the need for “People in Carmarthenshire to fulfil their learning potential”. LSB partners aim to achieve this outcome by:

- improving skills in literacy, numeracy, IT, bilingualism and communication in learners of all ages;
- ensuring the assessment of learners is consistent and rigorous;
- developing school leaders that have skills to work collaboratively;
- investing in the 21st Century Schools Programme;
- increasing the aspirations of all of our children, and in particular our looked after children;
- delivering a varied curriculum including vocational options;
- nurturing young people who speak Welsh to become community leaders;
- delivering financial literacy education within schools.

Many of these objectives are covered by current partnership delivery and will also for a significant part of the recommendations of this review. From March 2016, Carmarthenshire Local Service Board is being restructured, with 3 revised thematic groups (Prosperous and Resilient Communities, Healthier Communities, Fair and Safe Communities) tasked with delivering the priorities of the board. The development of the Carmarthenshire 11-19 curriculum will be integral to the economic prosperity strand of the LSB’s future work.

8.2 Carmarthenshire Corporate Strategy 2015-2020

The Corporate Strategy sets out the Council’s strategic priorities and aspirational vision for the future of the county. These strategic priorities and aspirations are aligned to the multi-agency county-wide outcomes identified in the Local Service Board’s Integrated Community Strategy focusing on improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of the people of Carmarthenshire.

Two of the strategic priorities within the Corporate Strategy have particular relevance to this report. They link closely to the economic and demographic factors addressed above. *Ensuring that people in Carmarthenshire fulfil their learning potential* will require a focus on:

- Continuous improvement in education outcomes for all children and young people

- across all learning phases;
- Successfully introducing and translating the new national curriculum and qualifications into an inspiring and engaging local curriculum;
- Developing a self-improving school system across the County making every school a good and improving school;
- Continuing to improve school attendance;
- Ensuring a range of youth support services to foster the engagement of young people in education, work and community life;
- Continuing to improve the condition, suitability and resource efficiency of the schools network through the Modernising Education Plan by investing a further £170m in the improvement of school premises through the 21st Century School Programme;
- Further developing the *Un Sir Gâr - Yr Hwb* service approach by simplifying access to learning and employment support services for young and working age people.

The focus on ensuring that *Carmarthenshire has a stronger and more prosperous economy* includes:

- Creating jobs and growth throughout the County;
- Developing training and learning opportunities for local people;
- Improving the highway infrastructure and communication network to support further economic development and connectivity;
- Ensuring long-term economic and social benefits for Carmarthenshire through the Swansea Bay City Region and future European and external funding avenues.

The curriculum developments proposed in this review link very closely with these outcomes and are thus key actions for the Department for Education and Children. These actions are identified in the Departmental Business Plan 2015-2016. The department is also working closely with both the County Council's Regeneration and Leisure department, Local Service Board partners (including Coleg Sir Gâr, University of Wales, Trinity Saint David and the Hywel Dda Health Board) and Pembrokeshire County Council to contribute to the delivery of these aims. The strength of current partnership working in county provides an excellent foundation for this work.

8.3 Coleg Sir Gâr's Corporate Strategy 2014-2017

This document sets out the strategic priorities for the Coleg Sir Gâr during the identified period. The overall mission of the college is "to be excellent, to be the college of choice" with a strategic vision identifying four key priority areas:

- Our service: to be a College with the highest standards, an inclusive curriculum and an enriched learner experience.
- Our culture: to be a bilingual College, rooted in our Community, where the wellbeing of our learners and staff is at the heart of everything we do.
- Our delivery: to deliver inspirational teaching and learning, and achieve innovation and excellence in all our activities.
- Our resource: to provide the very best resources for learners and staff while ensuring a strong sustainable financial performance.

Close partnership working with the local authority is fundamental to this vision, with the college's longstanding commitment to collaborative working being identified elsewhere in

this report as key to the development of a Carmarthenshire curriculum that meets the needs of learners, communities and the local economy.

In April 2013, Coleg Sir Gâr entered the group structure of the University of Wales, Trinity Saint David to ensure a sustainable future for the college and greater opportunities for Carmarthenshire learners. This arrangement not only underpins 11-19 partnership working in the county, but also opens up considerable potential for the expansion of higher education courses that enable young people to progress to degrees in key sectors while remaining resident in the county.

8.4 Current Educational Provision and Partnership Working

In Carmarthenshire, delivery of the Welsh Government's 14-19 Learning Pathways initiative is delivered via three local geographical cluster groups and one thematic Welsh Medium group.

The structure comprises the:

- Tâf Myrddin cluster (Ysgol Dyffryn Tâf, Ysgol Emlyn, QE High School, Ysgol Bro Myrddin, Coleg Sir Gâr)
- Dinefwr cluster (Ysgol Dyffryn Aman, Ysgol Bro Dinefwr, Ysgol Maes Y Gwendraeth, Coleg Sir Gâr)
- Llanelli cluster (Bryngwyn, Coedcae, St John Lloyd, Glanymor, Ysgol Y Strade, Coleg Sir Gâr) and;
- Y Bartneriaeth (Ysgol Maes Y Yrfa, Ysgol Y Strade, Ysgol Bro Myrddin and Coleg Sir Gâr).

Coleg Sir Gar is a key partner in all clusters, together with relevant training providers and Careers Wales in each area. Cluster working enables learning providers to implement strategic and operational planning for collaborative working and provides opportunities to share good practice to benefit learners. These clusters function within a shared governance structure that is unique in Wales. Shared governance groups include secondary school and Coleg Sir Gâr staff and governors, together with local employers.

Historically, cross-boundary working with neighbouring authorities (notably with Ceredigion in the BECA Partnership in the lower Teifi valley) has ensured the viability of some provision for young people aged 14-19 in rural areas. However, the further development of this partnership will require a strategic commitment from Ceredigion County Council to proceed.

A report on the quality of Carmarthenshire local authority education services for children and young people in by Estyn in March 2012 highlighted that:

“Partnership working between the authority, further and higher education establishments, employers and secondary schools in developing the work of the four 14-19 networks is good. The arrangements for the joint governance of these networks is sector leading. They successfully promote co-operation and remove unhelpful competition between providers. They also enable school governors, the college, employers and the authority to plan, monitor and resource an effective 14-19 curriculum that meets the needs of learners in

their clusters very well. Cross authority collaboration ensures that learners in urban and rural areas benefit from a wide curriculum choice.”

Since the 2013, the Network has been working sub-regionally with Pembrokeshire. This work involves sharing of co-ordinator staff resources and the development of a common approach to tracking and support for young people at risk of becoming NEET in partnership with Careers Wales. Joint working is led by a shared Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire 14-19 Executive Group that includes representatives of schools, both colleges, training providers, Careers Wales and local authority staff. This shared approach is also unique in Wales and has enabled good practice to be developed and shared in both two counties, aligned to school improvement developments across the *ERW* Western hub.

8.5 Implementing the Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure 2009 for 14-19 Learners in Carmarthenshire

In Carmarthenshire, the Learning and Skills measure has delivered positive outcomes 14-19 learners by:

- Increasing the range of courses available in academic and vocational subject areas delivered in both Welsh and English;
- Ensuring that individuals have more equal access to courses across the county;
- Developing a curriculum that better meets the needs of local learners;
- Enabling access to learning coaching and a wide range of additional personal support to overcome barriers to success in education and training;
- Improved “parity of esteem” between vocational and academic courses;
- Increased learner satisfaction and motivation due to opportunities to follow a more diverse curriculum that better reflects the interests of learners;
- Significantly reducing the number of young people who become NEET at 16 in the period 2005-2011;

Collaborative working by schools, Coleg Sir Gar and training providers has enabled young people to:

- Study in other learning settings away from their home institution for part of their timetable;
- Learn in larger groups with young people from other schools and colleges;
- Undertake courses in specialist subject areas that would not be available or viable in individual institutions;
- Get a better understanding of course content in vocational areas enabling better Post-16 learning choices (which could include a change from the initial identified subject area);
- Be more engaged with their studies through a wide choice of courses to reflect their interests with the resulting improvement in pupil performance and as evidenced by improving results at Key Stage 4;
- Progress to further learning in their chosen vocational area on leaving Year 11.

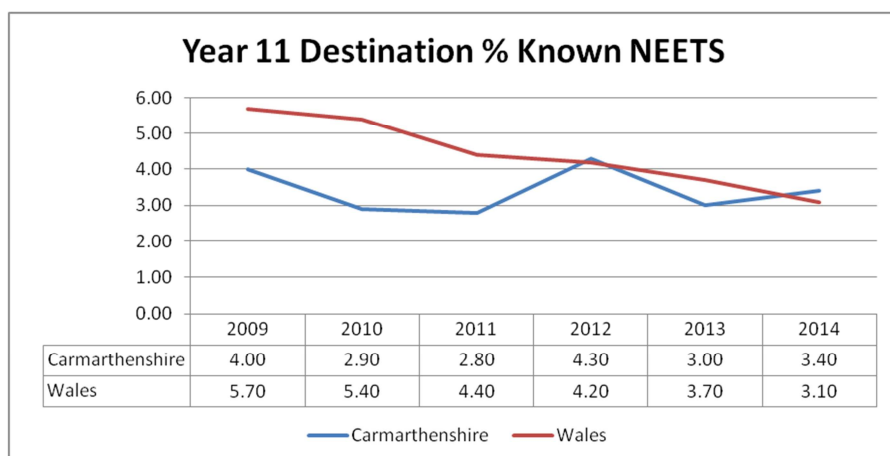
Additionally, the development of 14-19 Learning Pathways and the Learning and Skills Measure has enabled the rebuilding of trust between Post-16 learning providers that was eroded following the incorporation of Further Education colleges in 1993. The collaborative provision overseen by the 14-19 Networks has been instrumental in embedding genuine partnership working for young people by schools, further education colleges, training

providers, Careers Wales and the local education authority. This work has required many hours of brokerage and facilitation by the 14-19 related staff in the local authority, schools and Coleg Sir Gâr. This work has resulted in more effective collaborative planning and a more integrated approach to the delivery of a wide range of Welsh Government initiatives. It has also improved the support services available for children and young people.

8.6 Pupil Destination Data – Carmarthenshire Context

School destination and NEET “snapshot” data is captured by Careers Wales at the end of October each year for Year 11, 12 and 13 leavers. This data provides a useful indicator of how young people are able to progress through the education system locally. It includes details of pupils who would benefit from additional targeted support to move on to further education, training and employment. The data is published annually in April by Statistics Wales, and relates to the previous academic year.

Carmarthenshire Year 11 data reflects the current “mixed economy” for Post 16 provision, comprising of school Sixth Forms, Coleg Sir Gar FE delivery including an academic Tertiary system for the Llanelli area, vocational courses and work based learning provision. Data for Year 12 and Year 13 relates to Carmarthenshire school sixth form data only. It does not include FE college destination data, which WG record this in a different way, making comparison of outcomes difficult.



In 2014, the percentage of Carmarthenshire Year 11 pupils becoming NEET rose from 3.0% (65 young people) in 2013 to 3.4% (69 young people) with the Wales average being 3.1%. Carmarthenshire ranked 14th of 22 local authorities in Wales for this key performance indicator.

This small increase in 2014 was a result of a combination of the following factors:

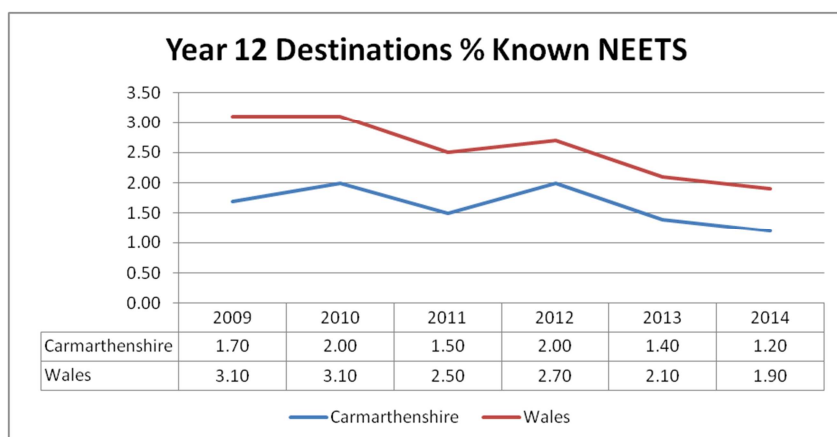
- The high level of dependency on annual grant funding to support the Youth Service and YEPF making long term planning difficult;
- Restructuring of the Youth Service linked to the required departmental budgetary savings and Families First service changes;
- An increased focus on pupil attendance leading to more young people being educated at home (given parents are concerned about fines if pupils do not attend school and thus are withdrawing their children to avoid this) and where this happens in Years 10 and 11, the likelihood of these young people becoming NEET increases significantly.

- The delays in implementing the Welsh Government and Wales European Funding Unit the 2015 -2020 ESF programme which offers opportunities for targeted project work with this cohort of young people.

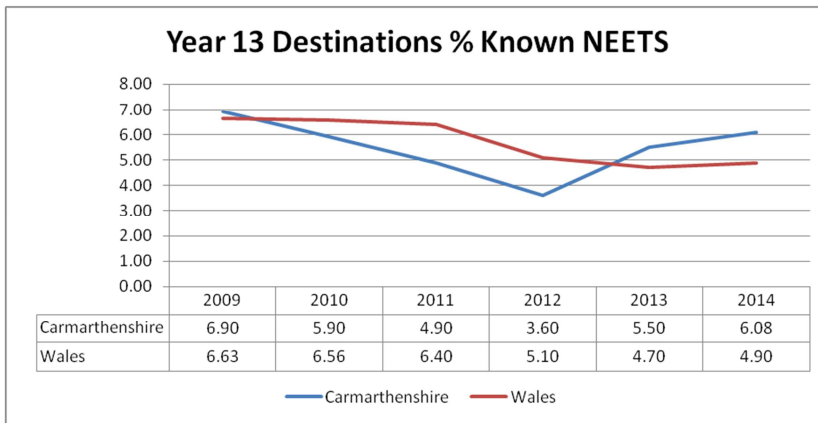
Progression by young people from year 11 to to the sixth forms in the county has remained fairly constant over the period 2004-2015, varying between 38 and 42% (av. 40.3%). The percentage progression to FE has increased from 39% in 2004 to 47% in 2015 (av. 43%). Given that the sixth form progression remains fairly constant, it appears that the reduction in the percentage of young people becoming NEET has translated into an increasing percentage of young people entering FE.

These trends demonstrate the strength of local educational partnership working, which is acknowledged as sector leading. Consequently, in contrast to other areas in Wales and England, there is not great competition locally for Post 16 pupils. This enables more pupil-centred information, advice and guidance (IAG) to be provided by schools and Coleg Sir Gâr, resulting in the needs of the learners being met more effectively.

The effects of YEPF related working can be seen in the “not known” category, with only 1 young person being of unknown status in 2014, compared to 94 young people in 2004. This reduction demonstrates that the collective local intelligence about the whereabouts of young people is much improved. This enables the delivery of targeted services (such as those funded by Families First) to support these young people and their families.



In 2014, Carmarthenshire schools retained 84% of their Year 12 leavers, ranking 6th of 22 Welsh Authorities for this KPI (Wales average 82%). This suggests a high degree of pupil satisfaction with the Sixth Form experience on offer in schools. The percentage of young people becoming NEET at the end of Year 12 was 1.2% (Wales average 1.9%) with Carmarthenshire ranking 6th of 22 Welsh Local Authorities for this KPI. The percentage of young people becoming NEET varied across the schools from 0% to 4%. However, focus on this cohort of young people remains a priority since levels of pupil drop out from Year 12 can be an indicator of dissatisfaction with the curriculum on offer, particularly for those pupils who return to the Sixth Form without a clear focus for progression and/or weak GCSE grades.



The percentage of Year 13 pupils becoming NEET rose from 5.5% (40 yp in 2013 to 6.0% - 46 yp) in 2014. Carmarthenshire ranks 17 of 22 Welsh authorities, with the Wales average being 4.9%. Analysis suggests that this trend is linked to particular schools where the levels of progression from Sixth Form to University are low, and there is significant variation in the outcomes here at an individual school level. For example, the highest rate of progression by pupils from a Carmarthenshire school to Higher Education is 74.5%, while the lowest is 38%. And the school with the lowest rate of progression to HE also has both the highest rate of Year 13 progression to FE (24%) and the highest rate of Year 13 pupils becoming NEET (16%), with the lowest Carmarthenshire school having 1.2% of pupils in this NEET category.

This data suggests that in 2014, some pupils who were not well suited to A Levels stayed on at school when they would have been better served progressing to FE College or work-based training. These pupils did not achieve good grades at A Level in school and thus either went to FE post A Level (in effect wasting two years in school) and/or did not progress and became NEET. Discussions with FE sector managers highlight that this situation also applies to college students as a degree of drop-out occurs following the first (AS) year of A levels, with some of these young people then opting to take full time vocational courses. This area is a particular focus for the new Post 16 Planning and Funding System.

The attainment of Level 4 qualifications by Carmarthenshire residents is lower than the Welsh and UK average. This needs to be addressed through a broader more engaging curriculum with clear progression routes to further and higher education and training. Similarly, the numbers of individuals without qualifications is higher than the national average. These skills deficits are concerning for the local economy, with employers reporting they are not able to find the skilled staff they need to grow their businesses locally. Strong local progression routes for vocational courses, building on the existing pathways between schools and the college are one means to achieve this.

While the existing partnership and cluster arrangements have increased choice for learners and the quality of provision, this work has been supported by external grant funding from the Welsh Government. As grant funding reduces, schools and the college will come under increasing pressure as the National Planning and Funding System impacts on the levels of funding available for 11-19 education and training in Carmarthenshire.

All learners need to be able to access high quality learning experiences for which they are well suited and for which clear progression routes are understood. Progression data indicates that a small proportion of young people across Carmarthenshire are, on

occasion, making the wrong choices at key transition points. In 2014 10% of year 12 pupils (93) and 8% of Year 13 pupils left school and moved to local FE colleges. This demonstrates the need for informed and unbiased information advice and guidance (IAG) prior to Post 16 transition to ensure all young people are taking courses that accurately reflect both their intended careers and local economic needs.

9.0 A Rationale for 11-19 Transformation

There is much evidence to show that 11-19 education in Carmarthenshire has improved outcomes for young people since the implementation of the Welsh Government's 14-19 Learning Pathways agenda. However, a new vision and related local curriculum is now required to achieve the following objectives for young people in 11-19 education. The outcomes for this transformation will be highlighted by this review and linked to the themes identified in the Welsh Government's Ministerial Priority letters to Local Authorities and Further Education Colleges. These outcomes will focus on the following priorities:

Jobs and Growth:

- working collaboratively on ESF bids;
- linking vocational training with the Regional Skills Plan;
- using Labour Market information (LMI) to plan vocational course delivery

Equality and equity:

- working together to reduce the number of young people who become NEET
- minimising the effects of poverty on children, young people and families,
- implementing all elements of the Youth Progression and Engagement Framework,
- ensuring all young people achieve Maths and English GCSE,
- increasing Welsh medium delivery,
- supporting more able and talented pupils through the Seren Hub developments,
- and ensuring transition plan are in place for LLDD learners

In summary, the delivery of 11-19 education and training in Carmarthenshire needs to change and develop further to meet the future needs of learners, employers and communities. Provision also needs to evolve to ensure the delivery structures are sustainable in a period of reducing public funding.

10.0 Factors that inform the development of a Carmarthenshire Curriculum

The development of a curriculum for Carmarthenshire learners is informed by five factors: Welsh Government policy, institutional choices regarding informal, non formal learning and extracurricular activities, local and regional labour market needs, targeted support and the views of young people.

10.1 Welsh Government Curriculum Policy

The Welsh Government sets out what young people are required to learn in secondary schools and further education institutions. Secondary schools in Wales must, by law, teach the National Curriculum to their pupils. The basic curriculum consists of religious education, sex education, personal and social education, and for 14-16 year olds, work-related education, the Welsh Baccalaureate is now online for pupils at KS4. Schools must also provide careers education and guidance for all 13-16 year-olds that meets the requirements of the Careers and the World of Work framework.

At Key Stage 3, the National Curriculum consists of 12 subjects comprising the "core subjects" of English and Welsh, mathematics and science, and the "non-core subjects" of Welsh second language, modern foreign languages, design and technology, information technology, history, geography, art, music, physical education and religious education. In addition, there is a non statutory skills framework, Personal and Social Education (PSE), sex education and the careers and the world of work framework.

At Key Stage 4, only five National Curriculum subjects are currently mandatory (English, Welsh or Welsh second language, mathematics, science, and physical education) and schools have greater flexibility to provide optional subjects that meet the needs and interests of their pupils. The majority of learners at this key stage follow courses leading to external qualifications, principally GCSEs. From 2017, the Key Stage 4 curriculum will change significantly with the move to a "capped 9" offer of GCSE and the implementation of the recommendations of the Donaldson Review. The subjects included in the capped 9 from 2017 are GCSE Welsh 1st Language or English Language, GCSE Mathematics, GCSE Numeracy, and 2 Science qualifications at Level 2, plus another 4 qualifications. From, 2018, science subjects must be 2 GCSEs qualifications. In addition there are opportunities to study vocational courses, the non statutory skills framework, Physical Education, Religious Education, sex education, careers and the world of work framework and the Welsh Baccalaureate.

In Post-16 (non compulsory) education in school sixth forms and further education colleges, young people follow programmes of learning, normally structured around AS/A levels or vocational qualifications at Level 2 or 3. These programmes include GCSE Maths and English for those young people who have not already gained these qualifications. While schools and colleges in this phase of education are currently funded on the basis of the numbers of young people attending host institutions, the Welsh Government is moving to a new National Planning and Funding System based on the actual programmes that are being studied. This change is likely to impact significantly on the funding available to institutions, particularly schools sixth forms. Further Education colleges are already funded on a programme basis.

The implementation of 14-19 Learning Pathways in Carmarthenshire from 2005 onwards has resulted in a much wider vocational curriculum being available for learners in Key Stage 4. These courses have been offered by schools in partnership with Coleg Sir Gar

and training providers. In most cases, these courses have been funded by additional WG grants, formerly 14-19 Annual Network Development Plan resources and most recently, funding allocated from the ERW Education Improvement Grant EIG). In some cases, schools have opted to continue this provision using mainstream All Wales Pupil Unit funding following the reduction of grant aid for these courses. This vocational curriculum has been informed in part by local labour market needs, with a strong focus on sectors important to the local economy such as construction, engineering, childcare and agriculture provision.

Other areas of collaborative provision (such as hair and beauty courses) are less closely aligned to the local economy and other growth sectors (such as hospitality and tourism) have not featured significantly in collaborative provision to date.

Many of the pupils who have undertaken vocational courses at Key Stage 4 over the period since 2016 have chosen to progress to Coleg Sir Gar for their Post 16 education. These pupils have progressed to both further learning in their initial choice of vocational subject and to a wide range of other courses, including A Levels. This indicates that the engagement of these pupils through additional vocational courses at Key Stage 4 has had a positive effect on pupil achievement at KS4 (for example, increasing GCSE performance) and in supporting their progression to Post 16 education, whether this be in school or college. Tracking of these pupils through their education at CSG indicates that significant numbers have progressed from FE to HE programmes at the college and then to employment in key local economy sectors.

While there have been fewer instances of collaboration in Post 16 settings, there are good examples of schools working together to ensure that a wide curriculum is on offer to all pupils. The *Partneriaeth* of Welsh Medium secondary schools has been pro-active in working together to share Welsh medium A Level and vocational provision between them. This has resulted in shared delivery of low take up A Level subjects (including Psychology and Spanish) and vocational provision in the key sector of Welsh Medium childcare.

However, further cuts to the Post 16 schools budget will place significant challenges on the ability of sixth forms to offer the range of courses currently required by the Welsh Government's Learning and Skills Measure. In order that all sixth form pupils are offered an appropriate and relevant range of courses, further school/school and school/college collaboration will be required in the period 2016-2020.

Existing collaborative courses have depended to a large extent on external WG funding to be viable. A significant part of this funding has been used to support transporting pupils from school to school or college. One means to overcome this cost is the increased use of blended and e-learning technologies to deliver mainstream courses. This delivery would include live and recorded lectures streamed via the internet, shared learning resources accessible via the WG *Hwb* learning platform and the movement of teaching staff to offer face to face tutorials and learning support sessions. That is one means by which this collaborative agenda could be developed further.

The full details of the revised Welsh Baccalaureate qualifications, recommendations of the Donaldson Report and related local actions are included in the parallel CCC document "*Palmantu'r Ffordd / Paving the Way – A Strategic Review of 3-19 Arrangements in Carmarthenshire*". The expectation of the Welsh Government is that these qualifications and recommendations will be implemented in full by all local authorities and further

education colleges in Wales. Local implementation of the recommendations of the Donaldson Review are identified in detail in the “A Strategic Review of 3-19 Curriculum and Assessment Arrangements in Carmarthenshire” document, to be published in March 2016.

10.2 Wider Experiences

In addition to the compulsory curriculum requirements set out by the Welsh Government, schools and further education colleges have the opportunity to provide a wide range of extracurricular activities for young people. These curriculum enhancements include arts and creative experiences including *eisteddfodau* and dramatic productions, sports teams and informal physical activity, a wide variety of educational visits in Wales, the UK and abroad, and the Duke of Edinburgh and John Muir Awards. In many cases, these experiences are some of the most rewarding and memorable for young people during their time in formal education. These experiences also contribute actively to the development of the “soft” and interpersonal skills required by employers. Despite the on-going financial challenges faced by schools and colleges, it is important that all young people have the opportunity to take part in these experiences. Consequently, they should be retained as a valuable addition to the formal curriculum, though decisions regarding what is to be offered in each institution will remain the responsibility of the school or college concerned.

10.3 Careers and the World of Work Framework

The Welsh Government has sought to strengthen the links between education and the world of work through a range of policy initiatives since 1999. Most recent examples include Qualified for Life, Successful Futures and policies to alleviate the effects of poverty in Wales. The new National Planning and Funding System and the Annual Ministerial Priorities seek to develop this link further, stressing the need for local authorities and colleges to ensure that the needs of the local labour market are reflected in the courses that they offer. The development of the Regional Learning Partnership and SBCR mean that labour market information for the key sectors in south west Wales is much improved. This information will be used to identify the key sectors for curriculum related developments in Carmarthenshire.

The Careers and the World of Work Framework (C&WoW) is concerned with the relationships between young people, their learning and the world of work. It helps learners to explore the attitudes required for employability and lifelong learning and enables them to plan and manage their pathway through learning and work. The framework includes support for young people to make effective career choices, become more entrepreneurial, become motivated, set long term goals and overcome barriers. It assists young people in seeing the relevance of their studies to their life and work and allows the development of the skills required by employers. In related curriculum developments, the revised 2015 Welsh Baccalaureate (and notably the Enterprise and Employability Challenge) includes many of the competencies to be developed through the C&WoW framework.

However, following very significant cuts to the core budget of Careers Wales, the capacity of this organisation to offer universal personal support to young people and deliver the Careers and the World of Work framework has declined significantly. In 2015, Careers Wales passed responsibility for the organisation of work experience and work related learning on to schools and local authorities. Individual schools lack the resources to dedicate staff to provide a comprehensive programme of C&WoW and develop effective

links with a wide range of local employers and highlight jobs that exist in the local area. There is a need to better promote vocational training and apprenticeships, linked to up-to-date labour market information and regional skills shortage areas. Given the reducing capacity within Careers Wales, the role of the local authority in this work becomes paramount. In Carmarthenshire, it is proposed that the County Council (both education and regeneration departments) take on this role to ensure all young people are well informed about the local labour market and what qualifications are required to progress to work in the key growth sectors.

10.4 Targeted support

In addition to the mainstream curriculum, a wide range of targeted services are available to support young people with particular needs. These services include:

- Team Around the Family support services linked to the Welsh Government's Families First poverty reduction initiative;
- Provision delivered by the LA's inclusion service including support for young people with special educational needs, educational psychology, the behavior support team, the transition team, linguistic support for minority ethnic pupils and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and school based counseling;
- Specialist schooling for young people with disabilities, specialist health needs, behavioral issues, and those disaffected with formal schooling;
- Additional support to be offered via European Social Fund programmes such as the regional Cynnydd Project to reduce the number of young people at risk of becoming NEET;
- Social work and health support offered by CCC Children's Services for groups including young people with disabilities and those looked after by the County Council;
- A wide range of learner support services provided for students studying at Coleg Sir Gâr.

10.5 Progression to Higher Education and Employment

While this review identifies the developments need to ensure young people can access a relevant and appropriate 11-19 curriculum, ensuring that young people are able to progress to higher learning and or/work on leaving school, college or work-based learning at 18 is essential. There are already strong progression routes for young people in key sector areas such as construction and engineering based on the long-standing partnership arrangements supported by Coleg Sir Gâr. These links can be developed further via close working with the CCC Regeneration team and their links with new and expanding firms within the County. Coleg Sir Gâr's place within the group structure of the University of Wales Trinity St David offers the opportunity for the further development of progression routes in key sector areas, including teaching and education. The involvement of employers in existing partnership structures and the CSG Corporate Board will continue to be essential to ensure that the opportunities for the further development of post school and college progression routes can be maximised.

10.6 Young People's Participation

Under the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child, young people have the right to be involved in decisions affecting them and must be provided with an education that develops their personality and talents to the full.

The Welsh Government define participation as being the “right to be involved in making decisions, planning and reviewing an action that might affect them.”

Thus while the Welsh Government sets out the legal and policy framework affecting the delivery of the education at all levels in Wales, all local curriculum developments need to be informed by the views of young people about the range of choices available to them. Themes contained within this review are subject to consultation with young people during the Spring Term of 2016 via the County Council's “Super Survey” on-line questionnaire to be undertaken by school pupils and college students.

11.0 A Carmarthenshire Curriculum for 2020

The provisional universal curriculum offered to young people at Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4 and in Post 16 Learning is identified below. It is informed by the factors described above and should evolve to ensure a close fit with the needs of the local and regional economy. It will also highlight the range of targeted support available for young people with additional support needs. The combination of the universal curriculum offer, related subject choices and the targeted support available will make up a Carmarthenshire learner entitlement at each of the three stages in 11-19 education and training in schools, FE college and work based learning.

At Key Stage 3 (for young people aged 11-14), it is proposed that this entitlement will comprise of:

1. A Universal offer (in Welsh and English) of:

- The core curriculum (13 distinct subject areas)
- Personal and social education;
- The 4 key outcomes of the Donaldson Principles including the further development of digital literacy;
- The Careers and the World of Work Framework including information on local employment opportunities and the study pathways needed to progress to these jobs;
- Access to programmes to support more able and talented learners;
- A range of wider experiences aimed at developing well rounded learners.

2. Targeted support to meet their identified additional needs including:

- Team Around the Family (TAF) support;
- Access to a range of Inclusion support services;
- Specialist schooling where appropriate;
- Additional personal support offered via the Cynnydd ESF Project for young people most at risk of becoming NEET;

3. Progression to Key Stage 4 in an appropriate learning pathway

(See Appendix 1)

At Key Stage 4 (for young people aged 14-16), it is proposed that this entitlement will comprise of:

1. A Universal offer (in Welsh and English) of:

- The “capped” 9 GCSE qualifications (Welsh 1st Language or English 1st Language, Mathematics, Numeracy, 2 Science GCSEs plus another 4 qualifications)
- The Intermediate Welsh Baccalaureate (including challenges in Global Citizenship, Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, Community and an individual project)
- Personal and social education;
- The 4 key learner outcomes based on the Donaldson Principles;
- The Careers and the World of Work Framework;
- Vocational course options linked to local labour market key sectors;
- Access to programmes to support more able and talented learners;
- A range of wider experiences aimed at developing well rounded young people.

2. Targeted support to meet their identified additional needs including:

- Team Around the Family (TAF) support;
- Access to a range of Inclusion support services;
- Specialist schooling where appropriate;
- Additional personal support offered via the Cynnydd ESF Project for young people most at risk of becoming NEET;
- Children’s Services support for particular groups (looked after young people, young people with disabilities)

3. Progression to Post 16 education or training in an appropriate learning pathway

(See Appendix 2)

In Post 16 education (for young people aged 16-19) in school sixth forms, it is proposed that this entitlement will comprise of:

1. A Universal offer (in both Welsh and English) of:

- AS/A Levels or a vocational qualification at Level 2 or 3;
- Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate (including challenges in Global Citizenship, Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, Community and an individual project)
- The 4 key outcomes of the Donaldson Principles;
- The Careers and the World of Work Framework;
- Access to programmes to support more able and talented learners including the Seren Hub;
- A range of wider experiences aimed at developing well rounded learners.

2. Targeted support to meet their identified additional needs including:

- Support to retake GCSE Maths and English if young people have not yet gained these qualifications at Grade C or above;

- Team Around the Family (TAF) interventions to overcome barriers to effective learning;
- Access to a range of Inclusion support services (in school sixth form settings);
- Specialist schooling where appropriate;
- Additional personal support offered via the Cynnydd ESF Project for young people most at risk of becoming NEET;
- Children's Services support for particular groups (looked after young people, young people with disabilities)

3. Progression to Post 18 education, training or employment

(See Appendix 3)

In Post 16 further education (for young people aged 16-19), it is proposed that this entitlement will comprise of:

1. A Universal offer (in both Welsh and English) of:

- AS/A Levels or a vocational qualification at Level 2 or 3;
- Intermediate or Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate (including challenges in Global Citizenship, Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, Community and an individual project);
- The Careers and the World of Work Framework;
- Access to programmes to support more able and talented learners including the Seren Hub and ACE programmes;
- Involvement in the World Skills programme for vocational learners;
- Access to sports and performance academy support;
- A range of wider experiences aimed at developing well rounded learners.

2. Targeted support to meet their identified additional needs including:

- Support to retake GCSE Maths and English if young people have not yet gained these qualifications at Grade C or above;
- Access to a wide range of learner support services;
- Additional personal support offered via the Cynnydd ESF Project for young people most at risk of becoming NEET;
- Specialist support services support for particular groups (looked after young people, young people with disabilities)

3. Progression to Post 18 education, training or employment, including Work-based learning programme and apprenticeships within the college.

(See Appendix 4)

In Post 16 further training provision and apprenticeships (for young people aged 16-19), it is proposed that this entitlement will comprise of :

1. A Universal offer (in both Welsh and English) of:

- A vocational qualification at Level 2 or 3;
- Careers advice and guidance;

2. Targeted support to meet their identified additional needs including:
 - Support to retake GCSE Maths and English if young people have not yet gained these qualifications at Grade C or above;
 - Access to a wide range of learner support services;
 - Specialist support services support for particular groups (looked after young people, young people with disabilities)
3. Progression to Post 19 education, training or employment, including work-based learning programme and apprenticeships within the college.

(See Appendix 5)

12.0 The Benefits for Learners

The evolution of a Carmarthenshire curriculum, informed by Welsh Government policy and shaped by local needs will enable the vast majority of young people in Carmarthenshire to achieve their full potential. The aim of identifying this common curriculum is to make young people aware of the range of provision on offer to them and how pathways relevant to their chosen career paths can evolve, linked to local regional and national employment opportunities.

Delivery of the offer will be the responsibility of the individual secondary schools, Coleg Sir Gâr and the locally contracted training providers. For school and FE provision, it is presumed that the Welsh Government will retain the requirements of the Learning and Skills Measures detailing the number of courses to be offered to young people in Key Stage 4 and Post 16. In this case, the local authority will retain responsibility for checking that secondary schools and meeting the Measure. For Post 16 FE provision, this responsibility rests with Coleg Sir Gâr.

However, the likelihood of continuing Welsh Government funding reductions will mean some individual institutions will find it more difficult to meet the requirements of the Measure, increasing the need for cluster based collaborative approaches to delivering the identified curriculum at a local level. Given the need to evolve a curriculum linked in part to local labour market priorities, the further evolution of Carmarthenshire partnership structures, including the joint governance groups and strong linkages with the Local Service Board will be essential if the full potential of the curriculum developments outlined here are to be realised.

The curriculum identified in the 11-19 Review will be developed in Welsh, English and bilingually where appropriate. This will include the prioritisation of course options to ensure a range and linguistic continuum of Welsh-medium opportunities for learners in line with the Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure 2009. For Welsh-medium provision, the role of the Partneriaeth Addysg Gymraeg (PAG) cluster network that includes Welsh Medium schools, Coleg Sir Gar and key local employers will be essential in ensuring that effective progression into Welsh-medium course options in Key Stages 4 and 5 will be available. Stronger links into local higher education provision in the medium of Welsh will also be developed to enable further linguistic progression for young people.

The Local Authority, Secondary Schools and Coleg Sir Gar will work together strategically to facilitate linguistic continuity in order to increase the numbers of young people achieving fluency in a broad range of Welsh-language skills. Those not opting for Welsh-medium education will be offered better opportunities to develop Welsh-language skills which enrich their experience of living in a bilingual county. We will also seek to promote Welsh as a recognised skill in the workplace through work-related educational activities run in partnership with employers, Careers Wales and CCC Regeneration colleagues.

Strong links with Welsh-medium education from the early years and robust linguistic progression through every phase of Carmarthenshire education will enable the development young people who are truly bilingual. 'Enabling the Welsh language to thrive' is a key building block in the 'Curriculum for Wales – a curriculum for Life' document, (WG 2015), namely the implementation plan for the 'Successful Futures' report (2015), authored by Professor Graham Donaldson. Close regard will be given to developing the 9 recommendations offered by Professor Donaldson regarding the place of Welsh in the curriculum – as a discrete subject, as a medium of instruction and as a means of informal communication.

Recent announcements made by Alun Davies AM, Minister for Lifelong Learning regarding The Welsh Language (e.g. Senedd 12.7.16) provide added impetus to developing the Welsh language in education, such as developing one continuum of learning for the Welsh language. These 3-16 curriculum developments will be fully considered, as deemed appropriate, within the 11-19 curriculum described in this document.

It should be noted there will be some young people unable to achieve all that they could during the 11-19 education phase. This will be a result of individual circumstances including physical and mental health problems, disillusionment with the formal schooling system, behavioural issues, elective home education and involvement with the criminal justice system. In these circumstances, a joined-up and targeted approach linked to the YEPF for those aged 16-19 offers the opportunity to target specialised support appropriate to their needs. The developing regional ESF bids (Cynnydd and Cam Nesa) offer the opportunity to provide support for this group of young people in addition to the current targeted services to meet their needs.

13.0 The Benefits for the Carmarthenshire Economy

While there are already good links between education and local employers, the recommendations of this review offer a useful opportunity to improve the connections between the schools, Coleg Sir Gâr and the local authority via both the Departments for Education and Children and Regeneration.

The identified curriculum offers the opportunity, via the Welsh Bacalaureate, Careers and the World of Work framework and core principles of Successful Futures to better prepare young people for employment. The changed curriculum will not only equip young people with the generic skills employers require but will set out the pathways that young people will need to follow in order to progress to work in the key local employment sectors. Use of Post 16 commissioning linked to the key sectors will ensure that funding priority is given to training routes that link closely to local labour market needs. Collectively these actions will mean that young people will be better prepared to take up the work that exists locally and to progress to higher levels of learning, whether this be in-county or beyond.

14.0 11-19 Review Conclusions

Educational partnership working in Carmarthenshire over the past 15 years has improved range and quality of courses available to young people. It has provided pupils and students with opportunities to take courses and gain qualifications relevant to the local economy and to enable them to progress to universities in Wales, elsewhere in the UK and beyond. The results of this work can be seen in the numbers of young people progressing to higher education and work in Wales and beyond and the reduction in the numbers of young people not in employments, education and training.

However, given the impending curriculum changes, possible structural changes and the impact of reductions in Welsh Government funding, all organisations involved in education and training in Carmarthenshire need to work more closely together to ensure that the educational and welfare needs of young people are met.

Delivering the identified curriculum models provide a clear focus for this work and demonstrate the commitment of the Carmarthenshire partnership to delivering educational experiences that meet the needs of young people, local communities and the economy. Implementing the curriculum models for all phases of 11-19 education provides a renewed focus for partnership working and informs the implementation of the national planning and funding system and possible capital developments in the County. Implementing the recommendations identified below will provide a clear focus for the further development of the Carmarthenshire Learning Partnership and enable the current sector-leading practice in county evolve to meet the changing needs of young people and employer.

Given the strategic case set out above and discussions with key stakeholders, it is important that there is a shared vision for the development of a bilingual Carmarthenshire 11-19 curriculum that will:

- Provide 21st Century education which is creative, innovative and aspires to excellence for all;
- Focus on the needs of all learners with quality as the key requirement for both academic and vocational studies;
- Provide 11-19 educational provision that builds aspirations and self-esteem for all learners and ensures achievement across a breadth of ability;
- Ensure choice and flexibility of learning opportunities and meaningful progression to the next stage of learning or to employment;
- Provide learners with employability skills and work experience as appropriate;
- Be responsive to employer and community needs;
- Meet the needs of those learners who have Special Educational Needs (SEN);
- Ensure that the needs of those learners with additional learning needs (ALN) are met;
- Increase opportunities for Welsh-medium and bilingual learning;
- Provide equality of opportunity for all; and
- Provide value for money and maximise the use of limited resources.

15.0 11-19 Review Recommendations

To ensure that the full benefits of the identified curriculum models can be achieved for young people in Carmarthenshire, it is proposed that the local authority, Coleg Sir Gâr and the wider learning partnership:

1. Agree the key components of 11-14, 14-16 and 16-19 shared curriculum offers *(by January 2017)*;
2. Implement the agreed curriculum model across all Carmarthenshire Secondary Schools, Coleg Sir Gâr and Carmarthenshire based Welsh Government contracted training providers *(by January 2017)*;
3. Agree the revised shared governance and local authority commissioning structure for the revised curriculum offer *(by November 2016)*;
4. Develop a commissioning model to underpin the full implementation of the Post-16 Planning and Reporting system for Sixth Form Provision *(by November 2016)*;
5. Identify shared priorities for further capital developments based on the curriculum models and the needs of the local economy linked to Swansea Bay City Region priorities *(by January 2017 and on-going)*;
6. Utilise Carmarthenshire Education Improvement Grant Funding (or any replacement funding) to support vocational course delivery in the identified growth sector areas (elder and early years care, engineering, energy and environment construction, tourism & hospitality, food and agriculture, creative industries, STEM industries, ICT and professional services) at Coleg Sir Gar and training providers for school pupils in Key Stage 4 and 5 *(from November 2016)*;
7. Build on existing partnership relationships with local businesses to focus skills demands and employability of new labour market entrants within Carmarthenshire to ensure that local demands are met *(by January 2017 and on-going)*;
8. Ensure strong links with the Swansea Bay City Region Economic Regeneration Strategy 2013-2030 to enable a strategic fit with the key economic sectors being targeted and local progression to Higher Education in the identified priority sectors *(by January 2017 and on-going)*;
9. Utilise regularly updated labour market intelligence on which to make informed decisions together with data on sector growth trends and growth sectors for employment on an on-going basis *(by January 2017 and on-going)*;
10. Implement a programme of blended and e-learning learning to deliver the 16-19 curriculum in low take-up AS and A Level subjects in both Welsh and English *(from September 2017)*;
11. Implement the actions identified in the Carmarthenshire Youth Engagement and Progression Plan to reduce the number of young people who become NEET *(September 2016 and on-going)*;

12. Continue to track the destinations of young people to support effective Post 16 and Post 19 transitions through YEPF related work (*September 2016 and on-going*);
13. Provide targeted support for vulnerable young people including those with disabilities and most at risk of becoming NEET utilising ESF funding via the *Cynnydd* and *Cam Nesa* projects for this work (*by September 2016 and on-going*) ;
14. Support the progress of the most able and talented learners via the Pembrokeshire/Carmarthenshire Seren Hub (*on-going*);
15. Support teachers, lecturers and other practitioners to develop young people's learning about the world of work through a County-wide approach to the delivery of the revised Welsh Baccalaureate (*on-going*);
16. Embed meaningful employer involvement in curriculum change, including strong links with key local employers and County Council regeneration departments (*by January 2017 and on-going*) ;
17. Consolidate the existing strengths of partnership working with FE colleges and training providers through the implementation of revised partnership structures (*by September 2016 and on-going*) ;
18. Ensure that the full requirements of the Careers and the World of Work Framework are delivered in Carmarthenshire (*on going*) by:
 - a. Implementing a format for careers days/ week in Years 7-9 involving local employers and LA regeneration departments and linked to local labour market information and JobCentre Plus data;
 - b. Maintaining a work experience placement database (jointly with Pembrokeshire CC)
 - c. Undertaking Health and Safety/ safeguarding vetting for all placements commissioned by the local authorities;
 - d. Delivering an annual Careers conference for Year 10/11 pupils in partnership with Careers Wales;
 - e. Supporting one week of work related experience built into Years 10 and 12, with links to the 3 Welsh Baccalaureate challenges, volunteering and Duke of Edinburgh's Award;
 - f. Strengthening links with parents and carers via newsletter/website, information evenings, parent's evening sessions;
 - g. One to one support with school pupils/students by personal tutors for all young people;
 - h. Developing Team Around the Family and Youth Worker brokerage roles to support transition to education and training for vulnerable young people ;
 - i. Early follow up of young people dropping out of school and college in the autumn and winter terms of Year 12.
19. Annual analysis of labour market information to inform collaborative vocational course delivery and Post 16 planning in the period to 2020 (*by November 2016 and on-going*) ;

20. Accountability for the progress of these recommendations be overseen via the shared governance clusters, Coleg Sir Gâr Corporate Board, Local Service Board and the Education and Children's Scrutiny Committees (*on-going*) .

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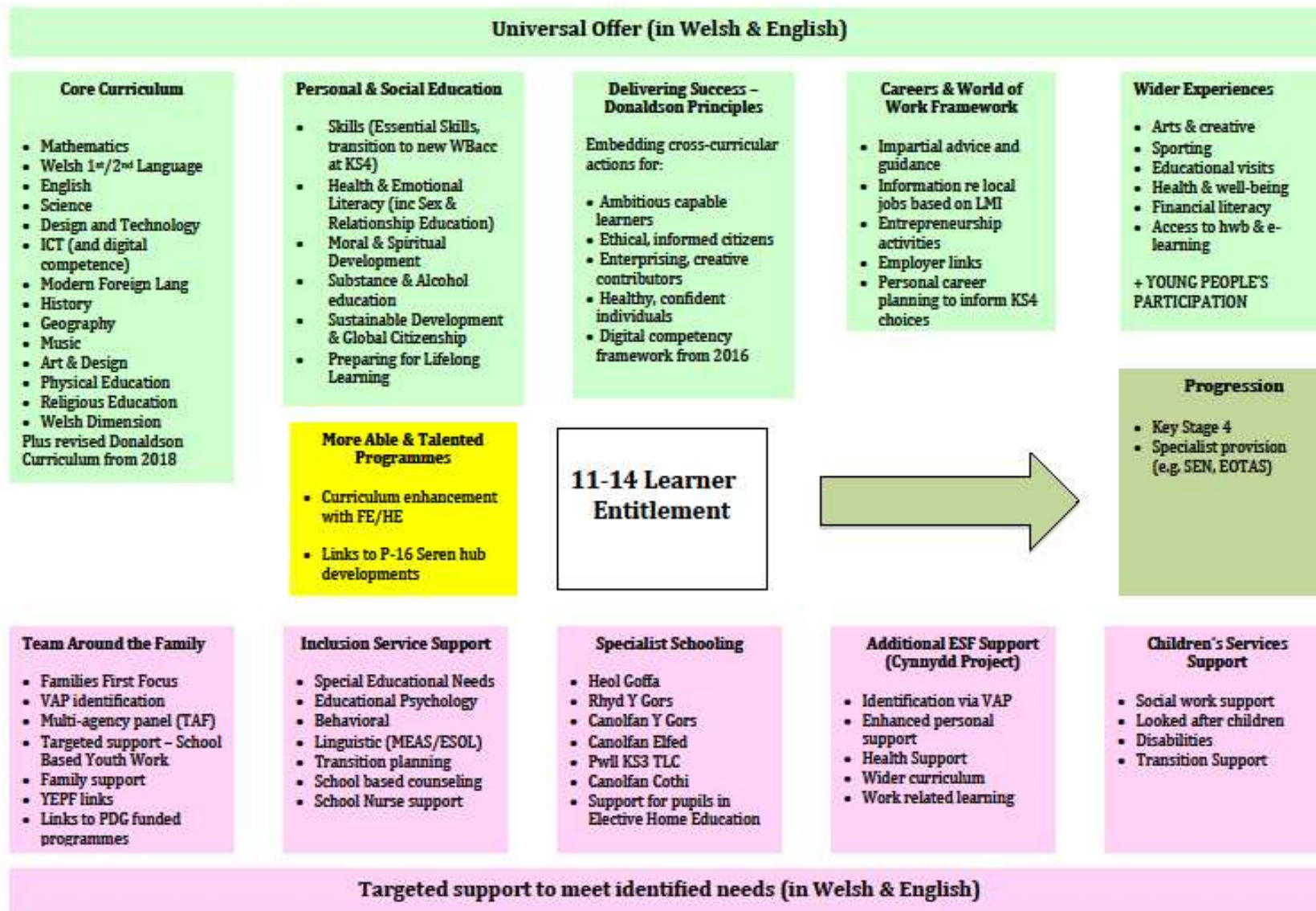
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17.0 Acronyms used in this report

AM	Assembly Member
CCC	Carmarthenshire County Council
CSG	Coleg Sir Gâr
CVET	Continuing Vocational Education and Training
CW	Careers Wales
CWoW	Careers and the World of Work
DT	Design Technology
EET	Employment Education and Training
ESF	European Social Fund
DfES	Department for Education and Skills (Welsh Government)
EOTAS	Educated Other Than At School
eFSM	eligible for Free School Meals
ESOL	English for Speakers of Other Languages
ERW	Regional school improvement consortium for south west and mid Wales
ESTYN	Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales
FE	Further Education
FEI	Further Education Institution
GCSE	General Certificate of Secondary Education
HE	Higher Education
HEI	Higher Education Institution
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IVET	Intermediate Vocational Education and Training
JWP	Joint Working Party
KS	Key Stage
LA	Local Authority
LLDD	Learner with Learning Difficulties or Disabilities
LMI	Labour Market Information
LTM	Learning Transformation Manager
LSB	Local Service Board
MEAS	Minority Ethnic Achievement Service
MEP	Modernising Education Programme
MFL	Modern Foreign language
NEET	Not in Employment, Education or Training
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-ordination and Development
P16PR	Post 16 Planning and Reporting
PDG	Pupil Deprivation Grant
PRU	Pupil Referral Unit
PSE	Personal and Social Education
RLP	Regional Learning Partnership
RLSO	Regional Learning and Skills Observatory
SBCR	Swansea Bay City Region
SBYW	School Based Youth Worker

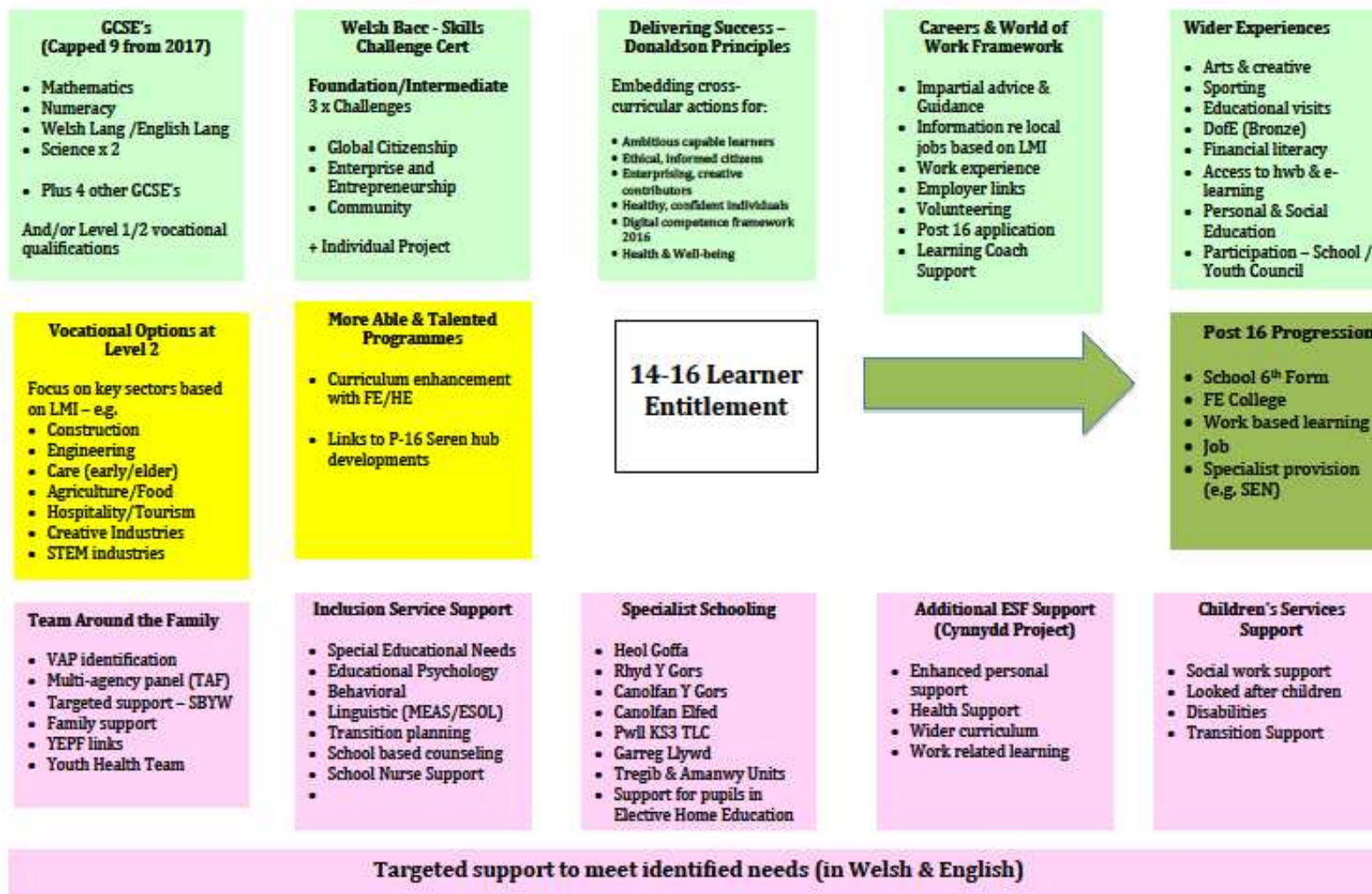
SEN	Special Educational Needs
SOC	Strategic Outcome Case
SSA	Subject Sector Area
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths
SWW	South West Wales
TAF	Team Around the Family
TLC	Teaching and Learning Centre
WB	Welsh Baccalaureate
WG	Welsh Government
WEFO	Wales European Funding Office
WMES	Welsh Medium Education Strategy
WESP	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan
YEPF	Youth Engagement and Progression Framework

Appendix 1 - Carmarthenshire Curriculum Offer – Key Stage 3 (Years 7 to 9)

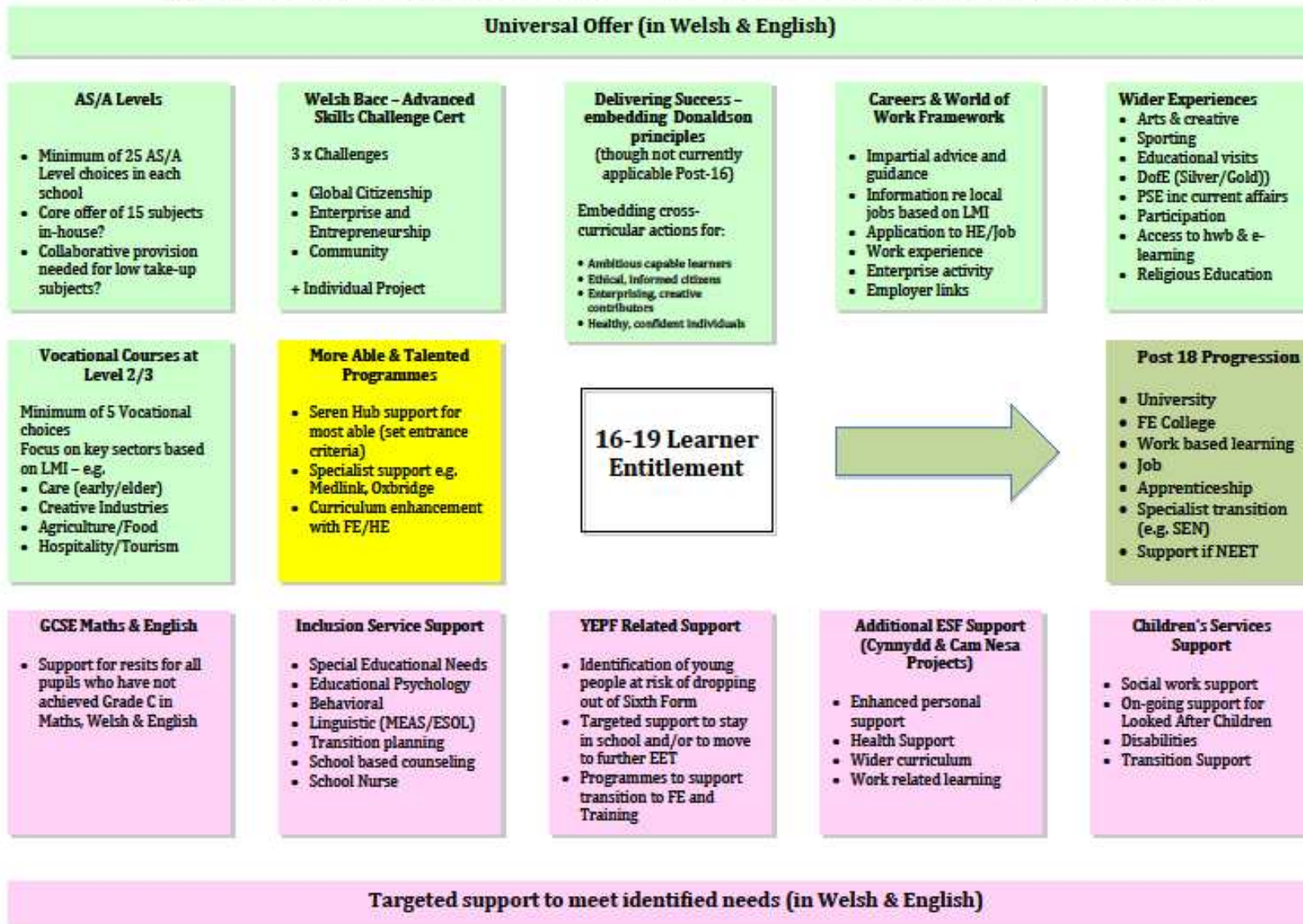


Appendix 2 – Carmarthenshire Curriculum Offer – Key Stage 4 (Years 10 & 11)

Universal Offer (in Welsh & English)

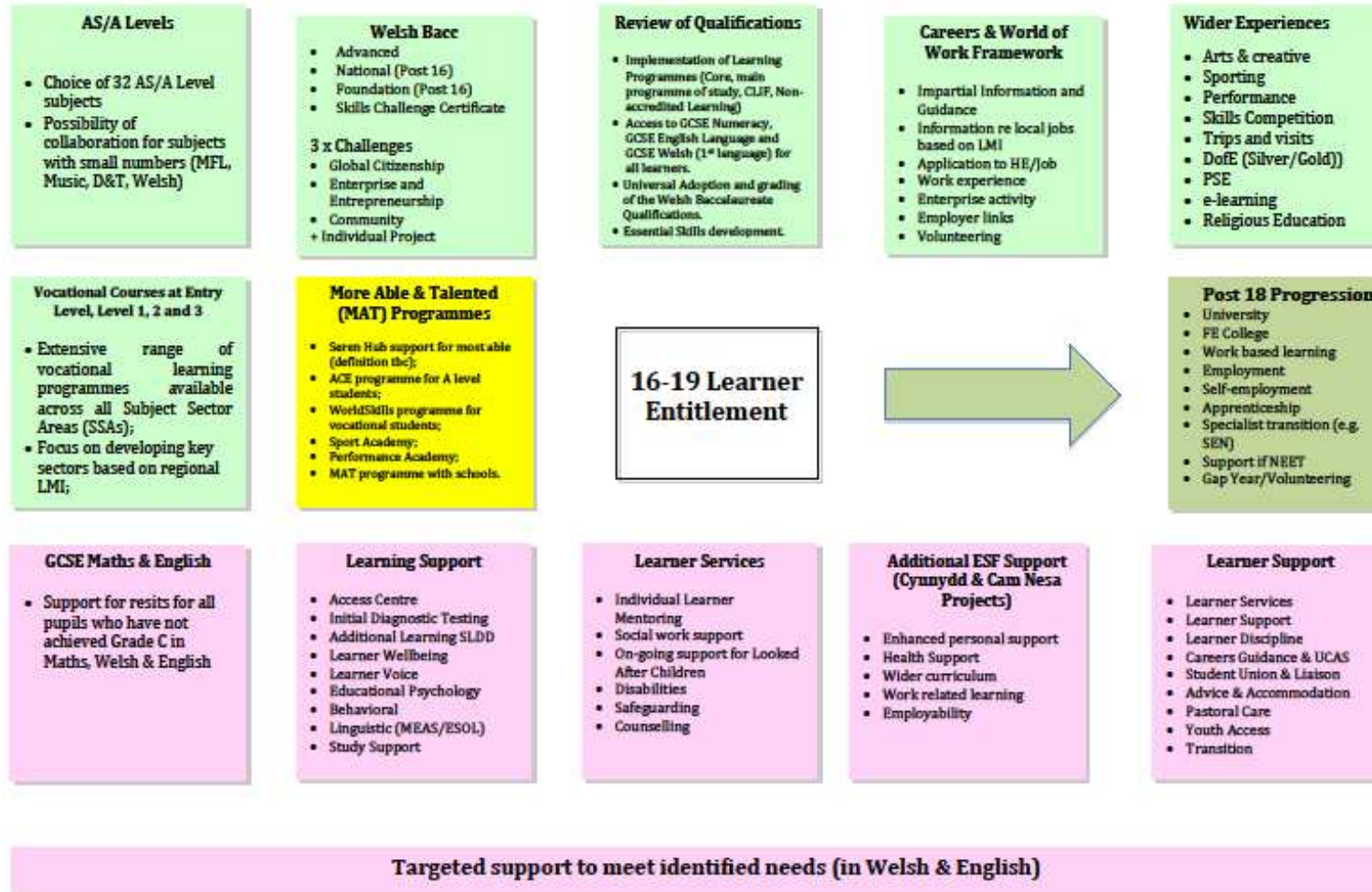


Appendix 3 - Carmarthenshire Curriculum Offer – Post 16 School Sixth Form (Years 12 & 13)



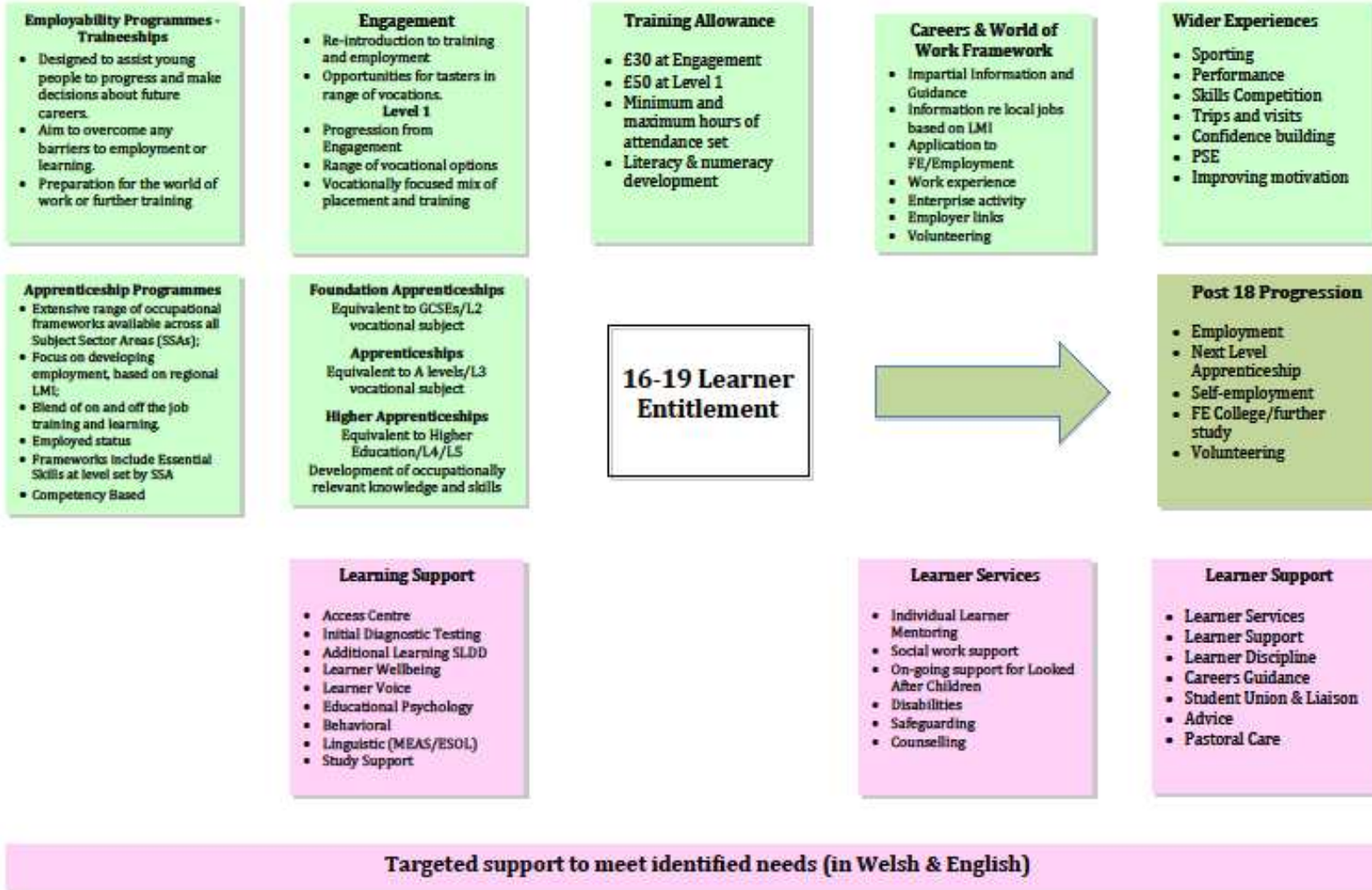
Appendix 4 - Carmarthenshire Curriculum Offer – Post 16 FE College

FE Offer in English with some vocational programmes available in English, Welsh and bilingually



Appendix 5 - Carmarthenshire Curriculum Offer – Post 16 WBL College and Training Providers

WBL Offer in English with some programmes available English and Welsh



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Carmarthenshire 11-19 Review Recommendations – Implementation Workplan September 2016-August 2017 D#2 (13.09.2016)

#	Recommendation/Action	Timescale	Responsible Officer(s)	Comments	Status
1	Agree the key components of 11-14, 14-16 and 16-19 shared curriculum offers	January 2017	AR/MM	Pending member elected approval by Jan 2017	
2	Implement the agreed curriculum model across all Carmarthenshire Secondary Schools, Coleg Sir Gâr and Carmarthenshire based Welsh Government contracted training providers	January 2017	AR/MM	Pending member elected approval by Jan 2017	
3	Agree the revised shared governance and local authority commissioning structure for the revised curriculum offer	November 2016	AR/MM	Plans to be discussed in Governance groups in Oct 2016	
4	Develop a commissioning model to underpin the full implementation of the Post-16 Planning and Reporting system for Sixth Form Provision	November 2016	AR/MM	Plans to be discussed in Governance groups in Oct 2016	
5	Identify shared priorities for further capital developments based on the curriculum models and the needs of the local economy linked to Swansea Bay City Region priorities;	January 2017	MM/SD	Link 11-19 review recommendations to CCC MEP programme	
6	Utilise Carmarthenshire Education Improvement Grant Funding (or any replacement funding) to support vocational course delivery in the identified growth sector areas (elder and early years care, engineering, energy and environment construction, tourism & hospitality, food and agriculture, creative industries, STEM industries, ICT and professional services) at Coleg Sir Gar and training providers for school pupils in Key Stage 4 and 5	November 2016	AR/MM	Plans to be discussed in Governance groups in Oct 2016	
7	Build on existing partnership relationships with local businesses to focus skills demands and employability of new labour market entrants within Carmarthenshire to ensure that local demands are met	January 2017	RS/AR	Links to RLP Employer groups?	

Carmarthenshire 11-19 Review Recommendations – Implementation Workplan September 2016-August 2017 D#2 (13.09.2016)

8	Ensure strong links with the Swansea Bay City Region Economic Regeneration Strategy 2013-2030 to enable a strategic fit with the key economic sectors being targeted and local progression to Higher Education in the identified priority sectors	January 2017	RS/AR	Links to RLP Employer groups?	
9	Utilise regularly updated labour market intelligence on which to make informed decisions together with data on sector growth trends and growth sectors for employment on an on-going basis	January 2017	MM	Contact with RLP/RLSO	
10	Implement a programme of blended and e-learning learning to deliver the 16-19 curriculum in low take-up AS and A Level subjects in both Welsh and English	September 2017 – on-going	MM/DD/MJ	Need to address long-standing school and LA connectivity issues	
11	Implement the actions identified in the Carmarthenshire Youth Engagement and Progression Plan to reduce the number of young people who become NEET	September 2016 on-going	MM/GA	On-going delivery of 6 elements of the YEPF	
12	Continue to track the destinations of young people to support effective Post 16 and Post 19 transitions through YEPF related work (<i>September 2016 and on-going</i>);	September 2016 on-going	MM/GA	Possibility of shared post with PCC based in CW?	
13	Provide targeted support for vulnerable young people including those with disabilities and most at risk of becoming NEET utilising ESF funding via the <i>Cynnydd</i> and <i>Cam Nesa</i> projects for this work	September 2016 on-going	MM/TG	Cynnydd Project approved May 2016 with delivery planned from Sept 2016 Cam Nesa project still in development	
14	Support the progress of the most able and talented learners via the Pembrokeshire/Carmarthenshire Seren Hub	Seren Hub delivery on- going	MM/Seren Hub Steering Committee	Seren delivery on- going though no identified funding from April 2017	

Carmarthenshire 11-19 Review Recommendations – Implementation Workplan September 2016-August 2017 D#2 (13.09.2016)

15	Support teachers, lecturers and other practitioners to develop young people’s learning about the world of work through a County-wide approach to the delivery of the revised Welsh Baccalaureate (<i>on-going</i>);	September 2016 on-going	MM/JM/SM	Support programme on-going	
16	Embed meaningful employer involvement in curriculum change, including strong links with key local employers and County Council regeneration departments (<i>by September 2016 and on-going</i>);	January 2017	RS/AR/MM	Needs greater links with CCC Rengen colleagues to promote this	
17	Consolidate the existing strengths of partnership working with FE colleges and training providers through the implementation of revised partnership structures (<i>by September 2016 and on-going</i>);	Sept 2016 on-going	RS/AR/MM	Delivered through continuance of shared governance structures	
18	Ensure that the full requirements of the Careers and the World of Work Framework are delivered in Carmarthenshire (<i>by September 2017</i>) by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Implementing a format for careers days/ week in Years 7-9 involving local employers and LA regeneration departments and linked to local labour market information and JobCentre Plus data; b. Maintaining a work experience placement database (jointly with Pembrokeshire CC) c. Undertaking Health and Safety/ safeguarding vetting for all placements commissioned by the local authorities; d. Delivering an annual Careers conference for Year 10/11 pupils in partnership with Careers Wales in March 2017; e. Supporting one week of work related experience built into Years 10 and 12, with links to the 3 Welsh Baccalaureate challenges, volunteering and Duke of Edinburgh’s Award; f. Strengthening links with parents and carers via newsletter/website, information evenings, parent’s evening sessions; g. One to one support with school pupils/students by personal tutors for all young people; h. Developing Team Around the Family and Youth Worker brokerage roles to support transition to education and training for vulnerable young people; 	Sept 2016 on-going	MM/CCC Regen staff /Careers Wales staff /Futureworks	Separate work streams for these activities?	

Carmarthenshire 11-19 Review Recommendations – Implementation Workplan September 2016-August 2017 D#2 (13.09.2016)

	f. Early follow up of young people dropping out of school and college in the autumn and winter terms of Year 12.				
19	Annual analysis of labour market information to inform collaborative vocational course delivery and Post 16 planning in the period to 2020	November 2016 on-going	MM		
20	Accountability for the progress of these recommendations be overseen via the shared governance clusters, Coleg Sir Gâr Corporate Board, Local Service Board and the Education and Children’s Scrutiny Committees.	September 2016 on-going	RS/AR/MM	Delivered through continuance of shared governance structures	

EXECUTIVE BOARD 17 OCTOBER 2016

STRATEGY TO PROMOTE THE WELSH LANGUAGE

Purpose:

The draft Strategy to promote the Welsh language has been prepared as part of the Council's responsibilities through the Welsh language Standards. The Council is required to publish the Strategy as part of the Welsh Language Standards but it has been developed in full partnership with the County's Strategic Welsh Language Forum, which includes key partners such as the Mentrau Iaith.

Recommendations / key decisions required:

- That the Executive Board agrees the Strategy before its formal publication.

Reasons:

- The County Council is required to prepare a Strategy to promote the Welsh language as part of the Welsh language Standards framework (Standard 145)

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted YES

Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee – 5 October 2016

Scrutiny Committee recommendations / comments:

- The Strategy was endorsed by the Committee
- It was noted that the Private Sector must be included in the Strategy
- It was noted that a specific Strategy must be in place in order to encourage young people to stay in the county, or to return

Exec Board Decision Required YES

Council Decision Required NO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr. Mair Stephens

Directorate

Name of Head of Service:

Wendy Walters

Report Author:

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Designations:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Executive Board
17 October 2016

Strategy to promote the Welsh language

1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT

Carmarthenshire County Council received its Compliance Notice in relation to the Welsh language Standards in September 2016.

As part of the Standards we are required to prepare and publish a Strategy outlining how we will promote and facilitate the use of the Language in our area (standard 145).

The draft Strategy builds upon the 'Welsh language in Carmarthenshire' report approved by Council in April 2014. Many of the opportunities outlined in the draft Strategy were previously in place through the agreed recommendations.

However this Strategy provides us with an opportunity to work and share best practice with other organisations across the county through the County's Strategic Welsh Language Forum whose membership includes:

- Carmarthenshire Federation of Young Farmers
- Coleg Sir Gâr
- Cymdeithas yr Iaith
- Dyfodol i'r Iaith
- Hywel Dda University Health Board
- Mentrau Iaith
- Merched y Wawr / Clybiau Gwawr
- Mudiad Meithrin
- Welsh Government
- University of Wales Trinity St David
- Urdd
- Welsh for Adults
- Welsh language Centres (Y Lle, Llanelli and Yr Atom, Carmarthen)

The Strategy will be delivered in partnership with the Forum members with links to our Public Services Board partners being established as the action plan is developed.

Preparing and publishing a Strategy to promote the Welsh language is a statutory responsibility under the Welsh Language Measure (2011).

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

(Draft Strategy)

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: **W.S. Walters** Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration & Policy)

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	YES	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The Council has a statutory responsibility to meet the Welsh language Standards, which have been placed on us as part of the Welsh Language Measure (2011).

2. Legal

The Welsh Language Standards Regulations 2015 came into force on 31 March 2015. These Regulations have replaced the responsibilities placed on Carmarthenshire County Council under the Welsh Language Act 1993 and have been imposed on the council since 31 March 2016.

3. Finance

As the Strategy is implemented, thorough consideration must be given to the potential financial implications. Further investment may be required in future to ensure progress in made.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: **W.S. Walters** Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration & Policy)

1. Scrutiny Committee - N/A

2. Local Member(s) - N/A

3. Community / Town Council - N/A

4. Relevant Partners - N/A

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

The draft Strategy has been discussed and supported by the Council's Members Advisory Panel on the Welsh language.

The draft Strategy has been discussed and supported by the County's Strategic Welsh Language Forum.

The draft Strategy has been discussed and supported by the Corporate Management Team.

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Welsh Language Standards		http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1443477/Carmarthenshire-Welsh-Language-Standards.pdf
Welsh language in Carmarthenshire report		http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/68004/WelshLanguageCarms.pdf

Strategy to Promote the Welsh Language in Carmarthenshire

2016-2021



1. Preface by Councillor Mair Stephens
2. Introduction: Context of the Promotion Strategy
3. Vision and Objectives
4. The Situation of the Welsh Language
5. The Work that has previously been done
6. Implementing the Aims: the mechanism
7. Implementing the Aims: Action Steps
8. The Way forward: Initial additional priorities

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1. Preface

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2. Introduction: Context of the Promotion Strategy

The Welsh Language Standards

In April 2016, Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh Language Standards came into force. After a period of consultation and preparation, 174 Standards were introduced by the Welsh Language Commissioner under the Welsh Language Measure (Wales) 2011, which would be regulated by the Commissioner. The Welsh Language scheme was displaced and the Standards were accepted as a new framework for Welsh medium provision in the following five areas of work:

- 1) Delivering Welsh medium Services
- 2) Policy making in a way that promotes the Welsh Language
- 3) Operating through the medium of Welsh
- 4) Keeping records about the Welsh Language, and finally
- 5) Promoting the Welsh Language.

The Council has been planning on county level to promote the Welsh language for the last five years, on the basis of the 2011 Census results, and the Commissioner's Promotional Standards in 2016 has provided a catalyst for formalizing these plans further. Standards 145 and 146 call upon the County Council to create this strategy;

145 You must produce, and publish on your website, a 5-year strategy that sets out how you propose to promote the Welsh language and to facilitate the use of the Welsh language more widely in your area; and the strategy must include (amongst other matters) –

(a) a target (in terms of the percentage of speakers in your area) for increasing or maintaining the number of Welsh speakers in your area by the end of the 5 year period concerned, and

(b) a statement setting out how you intend to reach that target; and you must review the strategy and publish a revised version on your website within 5 years of publishing a strategy (or of publishing a revised strategy).

146 Five years after publishing a strategy in accordance with standard 145 you must –

(a) assess to what extent you have followed that strategy and have reached the target set by it, and

(b) publish that assessment on your website, ensuring that it contains the following information -

(i) the number of Welsh speakers in your area, and the age of those speakers;

(ii) a list of the activities that you have arranged or funded during the previous 5 years in order to promote the use of the Welsh language.

This Strategy has not been created in a vacuum however. Although the Promotion Standards are a new regulatory element for the council, work has been conducted with the aim of promoting the Welsh language in Carmarthenshire for decades and the council has been central to those developments. In fact, as a result of these consistent developments, we have a County Strategic Forum made up of organisations who are in the business of language planning within the county, which serves as an ideal mechanism to lead the work of this Strategy. The efforts that have been made by the council to language plan in the county are summarised in chapter 5, but it would be beneficial at this stage to consider the context of the strategy in terms of other intentional efforts to plan for developing the Welsh language both county-wide and nationally.

A living Language: a Language for living – Welsh language Strategy 2012-2017

A Welsh Language Strategy was published by the Welsh government in April 2012, 'A living language: a language for living 2012-2017'. The strategy reflects the Government's vision for the Welsh language to thrive. It builds on the vision outlined in 'Iaith Pawb – A National Action Plan for a Bilingual Wales' that was published in 2003. It outlines how the Government will work with a wide range of partners who will contribute to ensuring that the vision is achieved.

To this end, the six aims of 'A living language: a language for living' are:

- to encourage and support the use of the Welsh language within families
- to increase the provision of Welsh-medium activities for children and young people and to increase their awareness of the value of the language
- to strengthen the position of the Welsh language in the community
- to increase opportunities for people to use Welsh in the workplace
- to improve Welsh language services to citizens
- to strengthen the infrastructure for the language, including digital technology.

These six strategic areas were also developed into the areas of work for the Mentrau Iaith during the following period.

'A living language: a language for living' was followed by 'Moving Forward', which was a policy statement and policy aims for 2014-17, which included an emphasis on

1. The need to increase the connection between the economy and the Welsh language
2. The need for better strategic planning for the Welsh language
3. The use of Welsh in the community
4. The challenge of changing linguistic behaviour

It is our hope that this Strategy will be a living document and, with that in mind, its aims and objectives could adapt to any directional suggestions made as the Welsh Government updates 'A living language'.

Welsh Government's **Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES)**.

This strategy, which was created in 2010, outlines the government's vision for an education system that responds in a strategic way to the increasing demand for Welsh medium education. One of the Strategy's main steps was to call for plans from the local authorities to satisfy local needs. Carmarthenshire County Council devised **Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)** in order to outline how the County will fulfil the Welsh Government's aims and targets and how it will plan more effectively for Welsh medium education in the county, moving primary and secondary schools along the linguistic continuum to provide increasing amounts of Welsh medium education. The Strategy plays a key role in the council's efforts to increase the number of our residents who acquire the Welsh language and it will be crucial that the promotion strategy should reinforce and support the WESP.

More than just Words

The ' More than just Words' Strategic Framework was drawn up in 2012 with the aim of strengthening Welsh language services in health, social services and social care. Central to the strategy is the challenge of developing the ' Active Offer', namely that staff members will offer Welsh language services to patients, rather than waiting for patients to request them.

The strategy was updated in 2016 with 'More than just words.... follow-on strategic framework for Welsh Language Services in Health , Social Services and Social Care 2016-2019 ', and tools were provided to enable staff to operate it. The Health Service has not been a member of the County Strategic Forum in Carmarthenshire yet, but is of course a member of the Public Service Board, which will provide opportunities for collaborative working on the Welsh language agenda. However, their inclusion on the County Forum would be a further, constructive step in the development of our Promotion strategy.

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Public Services Board

This Act is a means of helping the public bodies that are listed in the Act to think in the long term, work better with people and communities and each other, to try to prevent problems and follow a consistent approach in order to improve the well-being of social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.

At the county level, this Act is implemented by the Public Service Board. The Promotion Strategy's involvement with the work of the Public Service Board will be twofold. It will be necessary for the aims and objectives of the Promotion Strategy to coincide with the aims and objectives of the PSB. Secondly, it will be essential that the County Forum, in implementing the Promotion Strategy, will work to support the organizations that make up the three thematic groups to achieve the PSBs goals relating to the promotion of Welsh, which is to contribute to a 'Wales with a vibrant culture where the Welsh language thrives'.

As the work of the two bodies in its infancy, it will become clearer over the next few years just how the work will interweave, but at this early stage the work that the PSB will be doing

on the well-being assessment will be an interesting area of work for the County Forum in relation to the element of measuring progress in the Promotion Strategy.

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3. Vision and Objectives

The long term vision for the Strategy is, that we:

Aim to make the Welsh language the county's main language

Although there has been a marked deterioration with regard to the Welsh language in Carmarthenshire recently, we are confident that we are in a position to take purposeful steps towards normalizing the language in all aspects of our residents' lives. We have a solid foundation and a relatively healthy baseline to build upon with a view to making the Welsh language a natural language for living and working in Carmarthenshire. This, indeed, is the Council's vision (and the vision of this Strategy) as we take a leading role in efforts to positively influence the use of the Welsh language in the county.

We acknowledge that the best way of making this vision a reality is to restore the language as a language that is spoken and used by the majority of our residents regularly, and in all aspects of life. We aim to reverse the trends of past decades where Welsh is declining from being the main language in Carmarthenshire (75 % in 1951 to 43.9 % in 2011). It is only by ensuring that the majority rather than a minority of the county's residents can, and choose, to, use Welsh in their everyday lives that we can ensure the survival of the language as a community, living language for future generations.

We wish also to reach out to an audience that is as wide as possible by making the language appealing to all, including the county's new inhabitants and those who have not had much contact with the language so far. We aim to create a climate within the county where all the inhabitants feel ownership of the language and are convinced of the benefits of living in a truly bilingual county.

It is our hope and our intention therefore that this Strategy should provide a valuable resource that will assist our attempts to plan together, to cooperate and to target resources in order to reach the 5 objectives below:

- i. Increasing numbers **acquiring basic and further skills in Welsh** through the education system and through language transmission in the home;
- ii. **Increase the confidence of Welsh speakers and therefore the use of the Language** in every sphere of life, and encourage and Support the county's organisations to make the Welsh Language an increasingly natural medium for their Services
- iii. Take purposeful steps to **positively affect population movements** attempting to attract our Young people to establish or re-establish themselves in the county so that the gains that are made in terms of Welsh speakers through the education system are not lost. Also, to make significant efforts to assimilate newcomers and ensure that new planning developments do not have a detrimental effect on the viability of the Welsh language;
- iv. To target **specific geographic areas** within the county, either because they offer the potential to develop or because they cause linguistic concern to increase the numbers of residents in those areas who can and do use Welsh;
- v. Marketing and promoting the Welsh language. Raising the status of Welsh and awareness of the benefits of bilingualism and bilingual education. And by raising awareness of these benefits, attracting more residents of the county to acquire the language.

4. The Situation of the Welsh Language

With 78,048 residents able to speak Welsh according to the 2011 Census, Carmarthenshire has the highest number of Welsh speakers in any of the unitary authorities in Wales. The density of Welsh speakers is also quite consistent across the county, with as little as six out of the forty communities with less than 40% of Welsh speakers in the county. The element of consistency in terms of the density of Welsh speakers throughout the county helps to foster positive attitudes in general, politically and communally, towards the Welsh language and the need to promote it.

Indeed, such was the unanimous political support towards the Welsh language in the county when the worrying 2011 Census results hit the country, that the County Council commissioned a detailed statistical report on the situation of Welsh language in Carmarthenshire by Dr Dylan Phillips. The report, '2011 Census: The Welsh language in Carmarthenshire', followed the same pattern in terms of content and order as the report completed in 2005 in order to facilitate comparisons. The report offers a detailed analysis of language trends within the county and, in the same way as it has been the basis for the work of the Census Working Group; it will also be a valuable resource for the promotion of this strategy.

The tendency of decreasing numbers of Welsh speakers in the language's traditional strongholds was highlighted in '2011 Census: The Welsh Language in Carmarthenshire':

In Carmarthenshire, the number of Welsh speakers declined consistently, with a net loss of 11,165 during the same period. Similarly, the percentages of Welsh speakers also continued to go down. In 1991, 54.8 per cent of the county's inhabitants could speak Welsh, but the percentage dropped to 50.1 per cent of the population by 2001 (see Graph 1.3) and decreased still further to 43.9 per cent in 2011 – the first time ever for the percentage of Welsh speakers in Carmarthenshire to drop below half, meaning that Welsh speakers in the county are now in the minority in an area traditionally considered to be one of the language's heartlands.

Although most counties saw a small decrease in the percentages of their Welsh speakers between 2001 and 2011, the old areas of the Welsh heartlands, y Fro Gymraeg, experienced the greatest decrease – with Ceredigion seeing a decrease of -4.5 per cent and Gwynedd -3.3 per cent. But Carmarthenshire experienced the greatest decrease by a long way, as the percentage fell -6.1 per cent between the two censuses (and -10.9 per cent between 1991 and 2011).

There are revealing statistics in the body of the report that explains this deterioration to a large extent. Firstly, demographic tendencies are extremely significant:

Up until the 1970's 8 out of ten people in Carmarthenshire who were middle aged or older could speak Welsh. However, percentages of Welsh speakers in this age group have decreased at a faster rate in every census since. Since 1981 the county has lost almost 8 per cent of its Welsh speakers from the population aged 65 and over, with every decade, and the demise of the older generation is directly reflected in the decrease of Welsh speaker percentages across the entire county at each census.

Secondly, population movement is a key factor in the deterioration of the Welsh language:

There is very little doubt that one of the most important factors that affected the prosperity of the Welsh language in its traditional areas in recent years has been population mobility. The dual process of the out-migration of Welsh speakers and the immigration of monoglot English speakers engendered a substantial decline in the numbers and percentages of Welsh speakers across its heartlands. That was also experienced in Carmarthenshire, where there has been a significant increase in the percentages of those born outside Wales since the 1970s.

The report documents the substantial immigration into rural and urban areas of the county alike and also noted that only 13.2 percent of immigrants across the county claim to be able to speak Welsh.

Thirdly, '2011 Census: The Welsh Language in Carmarthenshire' identifies a lack of language transmission in the home as a detrimental factor to the Welsh language in Carmarthenshire just as across Wales:

On average in Carmarthenshire, 76.7 per cent of children aged 3-4 who lived in Welsh speaking homes could speak Welsh - namely a small increase from 2001 when 72.9 per cent of children aged 3-4 who lived in Welsh speaking homes could speak Welsh. This means that almost a quarter of parents in Welsh speaking households choose to bring up their children in English. If the linguistic ability of these children were considered in more depth according to the structure of the home, those children brought up by two Welsh speaking parents were seen to be far more likely to be able to speak Welsh (85.3 per cent) than those raised by a single Welsh speaking parent (58.8 per cent).

Dr Dylan Phillips identifies some encouraging trends too however.

2011 data clearly shows that there was a higher percentage of Welsh speaking 3-4 year olds in Carmarthenshire than in 2001 – the only age group where this occurred. Indeed, this is the highest the percentage for 3-4 year olds has been in the county since 1961 (when a figure of 51.9 per cent of this age group was returned as Welsh speakers).

He noted that there was not significant deterioration within the following age groups either:

The data for school phase is also optimistic, as 6 out of 10 5-9 and 10-14 year olds were returned as Welsh speakers - very similar percentage to those of 2001, which suggests that the education system is managing to maintain the percentages of Welsh speakers despite the apparent decline seen in all other age groups by school phase. However, in light of the fact that Carmarthenshire percentages of Welsh speakers aged 3-15 years continue to steadily decrease, and bearing in mind that the county's education policy is to ensure that all children are totally bilingual by the time they leave school, there is no argument that much remains to be done

The good news in terms of Welsh speakers according to age groups comes to an abrupt end however after school age:

It is also disappointing to note that it is in the 25-34 age group (37.5 per cent) that the lowest percentage of Welsh speakers can be found in Carmarthenshire, namely, the age group most likely to raise children. This percentage was considerably lower in 2011 than in 2001 (42.4 per cent), and significantly lower than the percentage of Welsh speakers aged 16-24 in 2001 (47.6 per cent), therefore if these were the same people ten years later, then a very significant proportion of them chose to shun the language for some reason. Similarly, the percentage of Welsh speakers in the other age groups also decreased between 2001 and 2011.

The lack of Welsh speakers in this age group is a significant problem for Carmarthenshire and is a sign of deteriorating language patterns. In the same way, the oral-literacy divide is a cause for great concern:

In the whole of Carmarthenshire, 11.5 per cent of those who have some knowledge of Welsh can only speak it compared to an average of 10.2 per cent across Wales. Once again, this compares unfavourably with the other areas in the bygone heartland, y Fro Gymraeg, where a higher average of the language's speakers can also write and read it...

As a number of language sociologists have argued following the first important discussion by E.G. Bowen and Harold Carter on this subject in 1975, the ability to read and write in a language is a sign of its stability. Similarly, a lack of literacy in a language

is a sign of instability and suggests that speakers do not place high value on being skilled in that language. Furthermore, lack of literacy more often than not signifies a vital step in language decline, as the first skills to go amiss in a process of language shift will be the skills of literacy. They require more investment in time and energy by the speaker than the ability to speak alone, or even understand a spoken language, which are easier skills to acquire and maintain and to some extent inhabitants in a bilingual society will gain them passively. Consequently, the oral-literacy divide was used by Bowen and Carter to identify 'borderline' communities going through a language shift.

The findings that '2011 Census: The Welsh language in Carmarthenshire' offer will help us to better understand the trends that we experience in our every-day lives in Carmarthenshire. Another feature which is illustrated in the statistics is the lack of confidence within the Welsh speaking community that causes individuals to underestimate their own Welsh language skills. According to the report, there are 20,000 residents who claim to have some Welsh language skills but cannot speak it. Of those, 14,297 residents in the county claim to *understand* Welsh but not speak it. These figures point towards the feature prominent among residents who have either had Welsh language at home but not in school, or those who have had Welsh in school but not at home, causing them to lose confidence in their ability to converse in Welsh and therefore underestimate their own abilities.

The detailed analysis by ward and community is an invaluable tool as we identify the geographical areas where the situation is most severe. 'But the town that saw the largest decrease in the percentage of Welsh speakers between 2001 and 2011 was undoubtedly Ammanford. The difficulty is that we could easily interpret all areas of the county as areas that need attention, either because they show new signs of weakening the language, or because they display historical trends of decline;



The towns have traditionally held higher percentages of monoglot English speakers due to the influence of commerce and industrialisation, and the seaside areas, where tourism was for generations a factor in Anglicisation, continue in 2011 to see lower percentages of Welsh speakers, particularly Laugharne Township (22.4 per cent). The natural beauty of the county's coastline and its popularity in attracting visitors have certainly been a factor in the further Anglicisation of a number of these wards between 2001 and 2011.

.. Therefore, each and every electoral ward in Carmarthenshire experienced demise between 2001 and 2011 – no increase was seen in Welsh speaker percentages anywhere.

Despite the ominous trends highlighted by the report, we continue to feel optimistic about the future of the Welsh language in the county. We have a solid foundation to work on in terms of numbers of Welsh speakers in our communities and our education system and our residents, our community groups and institutions are full of hard-working and determined people. On the whole, our residents have a good understanding of the need to promote the Welsh language in all aspects of life and are supportive of our efforts to do so. The county has been at the forefront in matters of language planning, and we are eager to remain so during the next key period.

While 'The 2011: The Welsh in Carmarthenshire' gives us a more detailed understanding of the county's linguistic trends, we are aware, however, that we will not be able to rely on the results of Census 2021 for measuring the impact of this promotion strategy. The results will not be available until 2021, which is not compatible with the reporting nor planning timetable. Moreover, the aspiration of this strategy is to make gains in the numbers who *use* the Welsh language, and not simply in the numbers who are able to. We will have to look at further means of measuring the implementation of the strategy, and we might well be able to turn to 'Use of Welsh in Wales 2013-15 Survey' as further support to focus our efforts to improve the status and viability of the Welsh language in the county. The information this survey offers in terms of the use of Welsh, people's levels of fluency and how often people use the language at the county level might be useful. But, the 'The 2011 Census: The Welsh language in Carmarthenshire' certainly sets a complete picture of the current situation, which allows us to focus efforts to increase the number of Welsh speakers in the county realistically, with information on population flow, and economic trends as a background to our efforts.

5. The Work that has previously been done

The Council has had a Language Policy since 1993. It was in Carmarthenshire that the first Menter Iaith was established in 1991, and a number of active organisations and groups, such as Meithrin, Yr Urdd and a host of small, voluntary, cultural groups have been active in developing the Welsh language active in Carmarthenshire for many years. However, the worrying results of the 2011 Census were a catalyst for a new era of language planning in the county and a new dawn on a new and deliberate effort to resist the language decline. The Council and its partners responded with the following purposeful steps:

- A County Council task and finish working Group was established to Research into the factors that lead to the demise and to formulate a series of recommendations to deal with the situation
- Research was commissioned that lead to the publishing of 'The 2011 Census: The Welsh Language in Carmarthenshire'
- A series of presentations were organised as further part of the Research Process
- An Action Plan was formulated from the Working Group, namely 'The Welsh Language in Carmarthenshire''
- A County Strategic Forum was established of key partners who are involved in Language planning across the county
- Purposeful plans were established by the Mentrau Iaith in response to the new data
- University of Wales Trinity Saint David established Yr Atom in Carmarthen town
- Y Lle was established as a Welsh Centre in Llanelli
- Welsh in Education Strategic Forum established

'The Welsh Language in Carmarthenshire' report provided a solid foundation and focus to the work of the Council through the Executive Board Member with responsibility for the Welsh language and the Advisory Panel. Consistent attention was given to a series of 73 recommendations in the report's Action Plan during the two years following its formulation, within the areas of education, marketing Welsh medium education, Planning and Housing, Bilingual Workplaces, Language and Economy, Institutions working for the benefit of the Welsh language, opportunities to use Welsh in the county, language transmission and marketing the Welsh language. The vast majority of those recommendations refer to

specific actions the Council will take but there is also a strong element of cooperation with other partners in Carmarthenshire in order to tackle the situation cohesively.

Since the introduction of the Welsh Language Standards at the end of March 2016, work has been underway to combine the recommendations from 'Welsh in Carmarthenshire ' with the new Standards Action and with the County's Welsh Medium Education Strategy. Some of the recommendations of the working group will be suitable to be implemented through this promotion strategy, and there is still some work to be done to rationalize all the action plans in the light of the new Welsh Language Standards.

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6. Implementing the Aims: the mechanism

With the work previously conducted since the 2001 census and before in the background, here is the mechanism in place in Carmarthenshire to lead and to implement the Promotion Strategy.



7. Implementing the Aims: Action Steps

As previously explained, the Promotion Strategy is not a starting point for our work in Carmarthenshire. Action steps have been identified and activity is underway to promote the Welsh language in the county. Here is a table summarising the work that will be implemented by the bodies County Forum in the next few years and how the work fits into the objectives identified in the Strategy. This outline is an effort to put on paper a wide range of delivery by several active organisations. A number of these organisations have been established for years and their main aim is to act to promote the language. It is not possible to tabulate all the activities of these organisations. In those cases where the activities are simply too numerous to list, there is a reference to an external document which includes all of that organization's plans for the coming years. There is more detail, however, included in the table on the activities of those organisations that promote the Welsh language as part of their work but their core business is related to other areas of work.

i. Acquiring basic and further Welsh skills

Area of work	Organisation	Activity or further information
Cylchoedd Meithrin and Cylchoedd Ti a Fi (Welsh-medium playgroups)	Mudiad Meithrin	Support the provision of early years care and education, see strategic document, 'Dewiniaith' for an outline of the support Training and CPD for staff and volunteers through 'AcadeMi': home of Mudiad Meithrin's training and CPD
Cylchoedd Meithrin and Cylchoedd Ti a Fi	Local, voluntary committees	Provide care and education for children 0-3 years and run community-based Activities to raise funds and to reinforce the Cylch's activity
'Cymraeg i Blant' Activities in Burry Port, Trimsaran, Kidwelly, Penbrey, Llanelli, Felinfoel, and Ammanford, Garnant, Brynaman, and Tumble	Mudiad Meithrin	Ensure coordinated activity in early years, ensuring a child's language journey from birth, through the cylch Ti a Fi, onwards to the cylch meithrin and to Welsh medium education

Train and qualify early years workforce through 'Cam wrth Gam' program	Mudiad Meithrin	Cam wrth Gam Centre in Ammanford. Placements for level 3 students arranged across the county The program offered to years 10-13 in Bro Myrddin , Maes y Gwendraeth and Strade Schools
Private nurseries	Y Gamfa Wen (University of Wales Trinity Saint David)	Provide Welsh medium care for children 0-3 years, and encouraging their continuation into bilingualism through Welsh medium education
	Several Welsh medium and bilingual nurseries	Introduce Welsh language skills to young children
Welsh medium education – every educational phase	Carmarthenshire County Council	Provide Welsh medium education from the foundation phase to key stage 4 Welsh in education strategic plan Welsh in education County forum
	University WTSD	Train foundation phase teachers through the medium of Welsh
Transferring from primary to secondary school Welsh medium education	Carmarthenshire County Council	Welsh in education strategic plan
Further and higher courses through the medium of Welsh	Coleg Sir Gâr	Provide and strengthen further education through the medium of Welsh in the fields of agriculture, sport, childcare, business, and joinery. Provide and strengthen higher education in the field of agriculture Develop further Welsh medium/bilingual provision in public services, art and design, entrance into nursing, health and care and tourism.

	University WTSD	Provide Welsh medium and bilingual undergraduate and postgraduate programmes within the organisation's academic portfolio.
	Coleg Sir Gâr and University WTSD	Cooperate to ensure Welsh medium progression paths from further to higher education within a specific cluster of disciplines.
	Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol	Encourage more students to partake parts of their courses in Welsh. Fund two Welsh medium units on business level 3 course during 2016-17, two full-time lectureships in agriculture and one part time lectureship in art (from 2017-2018).
Welsh for Adults in the community	Carmarthenshire County Council	Market courses, Provide courses, Provide progression paths, Informal opportunities
Welsh in the workplace	Carmarthenshire County Council	Council's Language Skills Strategy Council's Learning and Development program (Croeso i'r Gymraeg, mentors, courses) Internal use of Welsh Policy
	Coleg Sir Gâr	Staff Internal Welsh learning program
	University WTSD	Accredited modules in learning Welsh and improving available for all staff and students.
	CAVS	
	Police	

	Hywel Dda University Health Board	Welsh Language Skills Strategy E-learning pack Support for staff to attend formal courses
Recommendations from 'Welsh language in Carmarthenshire (see appendix)	Carmarthenshire County Council	

ii. **Increase the confidence of Welsh speakers and therefore the use of the Language:**

In the community, in the workplace, in and around school life, in Leisure Activities, in businesses and while using public services

Area of work	Organisation (and project)	Activity / further information
Activities for children and young people with the school (or college)	Yr Urdd	Urdd Gobaith Cymru Corporate Plan 2016-19
	Y Mentrau	Gorllewin Sir Gâr Corporate Plan 2016-19 Menter Bro Dinefwr Corporate Plan 2016-19 Menter Cwm Gwendraeth Elli Corporate Plan 2016-19
	Carmarthenshire County Council Education Department	Siarter Iaith Sir Gâr
	Coleg Sir Gâr	
Activities for children and young people outside of school	Yr Urdd	See Corporate Plan
	Y Mentrau	See corporate plans
	Yr Atom	A location for Aelwyd Myrddin youth club; MGSG Street dancing, Cylch Meithrin Myrddin

Area of work	Organisation (and project)	Activity / further information
	Y Lle	
Activities for children and young people within rural communities	Young Farmers	See Annual Program
	Y Mentrau	See Action Plans
	Yr Urdd	See Action Plan
Leisure Activities	Carmarthenshire County Council	
	Sports Clubs	
	Yr Urdd	See Action plans
	Gwawr and Merched y Wawr Clubs	
	Y Mentrau	See Action plans
	Young Farmers	See Annual Program
	Yr Atom	Location for leisure activities such as yoga
Community Activities	Chapels	
	Choirs	
	Y Lle	
	Yr Atom	
	Yr Urdd	
	Papurau bro (Welsh medium voluntary run local newspapers)	
	Gwawr clubs	
	Y Mentrau	
	Luncheon Clubs	
	Merched y Wawr	

Area of work	Organisation (and project)	Activity / further information
In the workplace	Carmarthenshire County Council	Internal use of the Welsh language Policy
	Yr Atom	Establish contacts with the businesses located in the town of Carmarthen
	Hywel Dda University Health Board	Welsh Language Skills Strategy E-learning pack Support for staff to attend formal courses
	University WTSD	Establish a Welsh Services Unit on the Carmarthen campus to provide a range of services for Welsh speakers and learners alike.
	Businesses	
	National Public Organisations	
	Welsh National Theatre	Based in Carmarthen, providing Welsh medium jobs and working with the wider community
	University WTSD	<i>Yr Egin</i> Centre as a home for S4C and other businesses in the creative industries
	Coleg Sir Gâr	
Volunteering	Yr Urdd	
	Papurau bro	
	Chapels	
	Y Mentrau	
	CAVS	
Coordinate / encourage Welsh medium activity in specific areas	County Strategic Forum	Plan and coordinate work to develop the Welsh language in 6 priority areas
	Yr Atom	Promote and support Welsh medium activities across Carmarthen
Normalise the Welsh language across the activities of further education establishment	Coleg Sir Gâr	Open evenings

Area of work	Organisation (and project)	Activity / further information
The Welsh language in Carmarthenshire recommendations	Carmarthenshire County Council	
Assimilating learners to community activities	Y Mentrau	
	Welsh for Adults	

iii. **To have a positive effect on population movements:**

to make our communities attractive in terms of economy, education and social experiences

Area of Work	Organisation	Activity / Further information
Swansea Bay City Region	Carmarthenshire County Council, University WTSD, Coleg Sir Gâr, private businesses	Create attractive economic and leisure opportunities
Welcoming packs in new housing developments	The Council and Mentrau	Provide newcomers to the county with information that will raise their awareness of the bilingual nature of the county, the opportunities to learn Welsh, of Welsh medium education and Welsh socialising opportunities
Provide Welsh medium job opportunities	University WTSD	Y Llwyfan: Attract Welsh medium organisations, and jobs like Welsh National Theatre and Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol
		<i>The Egin</i> centre, housing S4C and other businesses in the creative industry
	Welsh National Theatre	Based in Carmarthen, and working with the wider community
Welsh medium Work experience	Menter GSG	
Affordable Homes Policy	Carmarthenshire County Council	Local needs assessment Communicate the work with

		Welsh speakers
Prosiect Ardal Llanfihangel yr Arth	Fforwm Sirol	Cooperate to focus efforts to assimilate newcomers into Welsh community based activities

iv. To target specific geographic areas within the county

Activity	Organisation (and project)
Ammanford Town	County Forum Partners
Llandovery/Llandeilo/Ammanford	County Forum Partners
Ammanford area	Welsh Government
Cydweli and Mynydd y Garreg	County Forum Partners
Llanelli and vicinities	County Forum Partners
	Y Lle
	Meithrin - Cymraeg i Blant
Carmarthen Town	County Forum Partners Yr Atom
Llanfihangel-ar-Arth and Pencader	County Forum Partners

v. Marketing and promoting the Welsh language:

Raising the status of the language, including the benefits of a bilingualism and bilingual education.

Activity	Organisation	Activity / Further information
National Marketing campaigns (with specific focus within the county)	Coleg Sir Gâr	Celebrate 'Shwmae Sumae' day, Santes Dwynwen, St David's Day

Activity	Organisation	Activity / Further information
	Schools	Celebrate Welsh festivals during the year including St David's in cooperation with Carmarthen town Council for instance
	Y Mentrau	Celebrate Welsh festivals during the year, e.g. St David's and Santes Dwynwen
	Yr Atom	Give national publicity to events in Carmarthen on Social media and national media, Celebrate Welsh festivals during the year
	Community and town councils	St David's Day celebrations on Carmarthen, Ammanford, and Newcastle Emlyn for instance
	Mudiad Meithirn	Promote activities of local Cylchoedd and Dewin a Doti festival through social media and in the press. Disseminate information pack to prospective parents and new families on benefits of bilingual care and education
Marketing campaigns on County level	Carmarthenshire County Council	Promoting Welsh medium services. See Communication Plan.
Local/organisation-specific marketing campaigns	Coleg Sir Gâr and Coleg Cymraeg	Art and Design Conference 2016-17 (The Arts for young people: Give it a go!)
	Schools	Marketing the Welsh language as part of the Siarter Iaith within their school
Promoting the advantages of bilingualism	Carmarthenshire County Council	'Why Use Welsh leaflet' for staff Language Awareness e-module for staff
	Yr Urdd	Language Awareness sessions
	Y Mentrau	See corporate plans
	Coleg Sir Gâr	Language Awareness sessions with students
Promoting advantages of Welsh medium education	Coleg Sir Gâr	In Language Awareness Sessions, open evenings with students and Welsh medium induction sessions from September 2016 onwards
	Y Mentrau	See Corporate plans

Activity	Organisation	Activity / Further information
	Carmarthenshire County Council	Communicate with parents of specific schools as the needs arise
Language Awareness Sessions in the workplace	Carmarthenshire County Council	Language Awareness e-module Language Leaders Training
	Police	
	Hywel Dda University Health Board	
	Y Mentrau	With businesses see. Corporate plans
	Yr Atom	With businesses in Carmarthen
Language Awareness sessions in the community	Y Mentrau	See Corporate plans
Language Awareness sessions for young people	PCAU project Welsh language Charter Cymraeg Campus – Second Language Charter ERW Athrawon Bro	
	Y Mentrau	
	Yr Urdd	
Transmitting Welsh in the home	Meithrin	Cymraeg i Blant project in specific areas
	Y Mentrau	
Welcoming Pack in housing developments	The County Council and Mentrau	
Promoting the advantages of using Welsh in businesses	The County Forum	'The Welsh Language in Business' information e- pamphlet
	Y Mentrau	

Activity	Organisation	Activity / Further information
	Yr Atom	Introducing bilingualism to businesses in Carmarthen
National marketing campaigns (with a specific county focus)	Hywel Dda Health Board	Celebrating the Shwmae Sumae day and St David's day (with a clear focus on the Health Board i.e. launching resources to support the use of the Language in the workplace) (Weekly) Welsh language awareness sessions

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8. The Way forward: Initial additional priorities.

As it is early days for the Welsh language Standards and its procedures and as we do not wish to interrupt the progress of the current work conducted in the county to positively affect the Welsh language, we feel that it would be unwise to create a brand new, comprehensive action plan for the county. It is our intention that this document is one that will be operational but will also evolve over time. In addition to the activities set out in the above table, therefore, we aim to set a few realistic and useful objectives that will enable us to move the work of planning forwards without disrupting the positive action already taking place across the county.

We are setting these additional priorities therefore for the initial phase of the Promotion Strategy, which will be September 2016 until March 2018:

a. Further mapping work

The table in section 7 gives a very basic picture of what is happening and what will be happening in the next few years to promote the Welsh language in the county. In addition, the Corporate Plans of the organisations whose core work is language planning offer much detail on their programs of activity. But, we intend to do some more concentrated mapping work during the next period, which will enable us to have a clearer picture of the extent to which the work carried out is suitable for achieving our objectives. We would like to map for instance, the human and financial resources against the 5 named objectives, to enable us to see whether scarce resources are being properly targeted. We hope to be able to see whether some objectives are being met better than others and whether we need to focus more on activities that meet other objectives in order to achieve our aims. It may be that the statistical work being done as part of the Well-being and future generations Act might help us in this work.

b. Experimenting with methods of measuring impact and disseminating messages of good news.

We are aware that we cannot rely solely on the results of the census to measure the impact of our work on language planning in the county. It provides useful, but rather crude information on our residents' perception of their language skills; it is indeed a more complex

issue than that which these figures show. Because of these complexities, we are aware that it is unrealistic to increase the percentage of Welsh speakers in the county within the period in question. Current statistics show that it will be a challenge to decelerate the current decline in the Welsh Language by the 2021 census.

In addition, there are several factors that we would like to address in Carmarthenshire which do not appear in census results, such as our residents' confidence in their language skills, and the use they make of them on a daily basis. As already mentioned, we will be able to use other documents such as the 'National Audit for Wales ' and the 'National Survey of the Welsh language' to measure some of these factors on a shorter time scale. We also know that there is work under way to try and experiment with methods of measuring the impact on a micro-level, which derive from 'behavioural change' theories ('nudge theory').

As well as measuring the impact, we feel it is equally important to highlight successes in developing the Welsh language in the county. This will not only highlight the types of projects that have the most positive impact, but also have a positive impact on the image of the Welsh language and culture, in turn, positively influence attitudes towards the Welsh language in general within the county.

We intend, therefore, during this initial period, to experiment with a mixture of ways of measuring impact and of disseminate messages in order to discover an effective model for our needs in Carmarthenshire.

c. Influencing the Public Service Board

Taking into account the lack of resources available for language planning, just as any other Service, in this period , it is imperative that we focus much of our efforts in cooperating with other public bodies to jointly shoulder the work of promoting the Welsh language within the county. It is timely, therefore, that we should strive to influence the new Public Service Board mechanism in its early days and this will be a key element of this strategy is this initial period. A number of the Board's partners will also be accountable to the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards over time, so it is timely to consider options to cooperate on different aspects.

Ch. A County-wide Promotion Project

Following the gap left by the termination of the Welsh Language Board, many feel that the work of promoting the Welsh language generally has receded. Where there were, in the past, national projects to be implemented locally, this provision has lessened. We would like to look at the possibility of running a project promoting the Welsh Language in the county. We will need to assess local needs and agree on a priority and then work jointly in the county to transmit a strong message to the county's residents generally, or to a specific group of residents in the county, such as prospective parents, in accordance with the results of assessment.

d. Influencing population movements

We will look at appropriate steps to positively influence housing policies, ensuring that language impact assessments are carried out in the planning process. We will try to transfer messages to newcomers of the value and importance of the Welsh language in our communities. We will also try and support employment developments for the residents of the county and try to persuade employers to use the language skills of their workforce. We will be taking positive steps to help assimilate newcomers to the county, especially to rural communities and we will explore ways to make the county appealing to young families. This is an area that requires a great deal of joint planning, coordination and experimentation during this initial period.

If you have any questions in relation to the Strategy, please contact the:

Policy & Partnership Team

Regeneration & Policy

County Hall

WelshLanguage@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

01267 224008/4914

Executive Board 17TH October 2016

Subject

**Purpose: Treasury Management and Prudential Indicator Report
1st April 2016 to 30th June 2016**

Recommendations / key decisions required:

That the Executive Board considers and approves the report.

Reasons:

To provide members with an update on the treasury management activities from 1st April 2016 to 30th June 2016.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted **YES**

Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee 5th October 2016

Exec Board Decision Required **YES**

Council Decision Required **NO**

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr. D.M. Jenkins

Directorate: Corporate Services

Name of Director: Chris Moore

Report Author: Anthony Parnell

Designation: Director of Corporate Services

Designation: Treasury and Pension Investments Manager

Tel No. 01267 224160; E Mail: CMoore@cararthenshire.gov.uk

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Executive Board
17TH October 2016

Treasury Management and Prudential Indicator Report 1st April 2015 to 30th June 2016	
1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT. To provide members with an update on the treasury management activities from 1 st April 2016 to 30 th June 2016.	
DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?	YES

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :
Signed: C Moore Director of Corporate Services

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

Within the requirements of the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy Report 2016-2017

Finance

The authority's investments during the period returned an average return of 0.51%, exceeding the 7 day LIBID rate.

Gross interest earned on investments for the period amounted to £0.094m and interest paid on loans was £1.13m.

The Authority did not breach any of its Prudential Indicators during the period.

At the period end the investments included £0.65m of KSF investments.

The administration of KSF is expected to continue for some time again and further updates will be provided in future reports.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: C Moore Director of Corporate Services



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- 1. **Scrutiny Committee** Not Applicable
- 2. **Local Member(s)** Not Applicable
- 3. **Community / Town Council** Not Applicable
- 4. **Relevant Partners** Not Applicable
- 5. **Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations** Not Applicable

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services - Code of Practice Revised 2011		County Hall, Carmarthen

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QUARTERLY TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT

1st April 2016 – 30th June 2016

A QUARTERLY TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT

1. Introduction

The Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2016-2017 was approved by Council on 23rd February 2016. Section B 1.1(2) stated that Treasury Management activity reports would be made during the year. This report outlines the Treasury Management activities in the period 1st April 2016 to 30th June 2016 and satisfies the reporting requirement stated above.

1.1 European Union (EU) Referendum

The majority vote in favour of leaving the EU in the referendum held on 23rd June 2016 will signal a period of uncertainty in the UK, with implications for the country's medium-term growth outlook. Since the referendum result, rating agencies Fitch and Standard & Poor's have downgraded the UK's sovereign rating. However, none of the three major rating agencies have taken any action in relation to the UK banking credit ratings. The rating status of the UK banks will continue to be monitored and if there is a rating movement then appropriate action will be taken in accordance with 'Appendix C - Approved Counterparties for Lending' of the 'Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2016-17'.

While the uncertainty within the markets continues, the Bank of England has stated that it will take all necessary steps to ensure stability. One tool at its disposal is to adjust the base rate.

2. Investments

One of the primary activities of the Treasury Management operation is the investment of surplus cash for which the Authority is responsible. As well as the Authority's own cash the County Council invests School Trust Funds and other Funds, with any interest derived from these investments being passed over to the relevant Fund.

All surplus money is invested daily on the London Money Markets. The security of the investments is the main priority. Appropriate liquidity should be maintained and return on investments the final consideration. It continues to be difficult to invest these funds as the market continues to be insecure and as a consequence appropriate counterparties are limited.

The total investments at 1st April 2016 to 30th June 2016 analysed between Banks, Building Societies, Local Authorities and Money Market Funds, are shown in the following table:

Investments	1.4.16				30.06.16			
	Call and notice	Fixed Term	Total		Call and notice	Fixed Term	Total	
	£m	£m	£m	%	£m	£m	£m	%
Banks, building societies and 100% wholly owned subsidiaries	13.00	7.65	20.65	45	14.00	3.65	17.65	26
Money Market Funds	15.00	0.00	15.00	33	11.50	0.00	11.50	17
Local Authorities	0.00	10.00	10.00	22	0.00	38.00	38.00	57
TOTAL	28.00	17.65	45.65	100	25.50	41.65	67.15	100

Investments on call are available immediately on demand.
Fixed term investments are fixed to a maturity date.

The £67.15m includes £0.65m (16.25% of original claim) invested in Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander which has been reduced from the original £4.0m by distributions.

During the period the total investments made by the Council and repaid to the Council (the turnover) amounted to £376.15m. This averaged approximately £28.93m per week or £4.13m per day. A summary of turnover is shown below:

	£m
Total Investments 1st April 2016	45.65
Investments made during the quarter	198.80
Sub Total	244.45
Investments Repaid during the quarter	(177.30)
Total Investments at 30th June 2016	67.15

The main aims of the Treasury Management Strategy is to appropriately manage the cash flows of the Council, the required short term and longer term market transactions and the risks associated with this activity. Lending on the money market secures an optimum rate of return and also allows for diversification of investments and hence reduction of risk, which is of paramount importance in today's financial markets.

The benchmark return for the London money market is the “7 day LIBID rate”. For 2016-2017 the Council has compared its performance against this “7 day LIBID rate”. For the period under review the average “7 day LIBID rate” was 0.36% whereas the actual rate the Council earned was 0.51%, an out performance of 0.15%.

This outperformance can be quantified to £27k additional interest earned compared to the “7 day LIBID rate”.

The gross interest earned on investments for the period amounted to £94k.

The income from investments is used by the Authority to reduce the net overall costs to the Council taxpayer.

3. Update on the investments with Kaupthing Singer & Friedlander (KSF)

No dividends were received during the quarter. As at 30th June 2016 the sum of £3.35m principal and £205k interest had been received from the administrators, which equates to 83.75% of the claim submitted. The administrators currently expect the total repayment to be up to 85.5% of the original claim with further dividends expected in 2016-2017 and 2017-2018.

A further update will be provided in future reports.

4. Security, Liquidity and Yield (SLY)

Within the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2016-2017, the Council’s investment priorities are:

- Security of Capital
- Liquidity and
- Yield

The Council aims to achieve the optimum return (yield) on investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity. In the current economic climate it is considered appropriate to keep investments short term to cover short term cash flow needs but also to seek out value available in significantly higher rates in periods up to 12 months with highly credit rated financial institutions.

Attached in Appendix 1 is the Investment Summary and Top 10 Counterparty Holdings (excluding the £0.65m in KSF) as at 30th June 2016.

5. Borrowing

One of the methods used to fund capital expenditure is long term borrowing. The principal lender for Local Authorities is the Public Works Loan Board (PWLb).

Under the Treasury Management Strategy it was agreed to borrow when interest rates are at their most advantageous.

The total loans at 1st April 2016 and 30th June 2016 are shown in the following table:

Loans	Balance at 01.04.16 £m	Balance at 30.06.16 £m	Net Increase/ (Net Decrease) £m
Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)	369.59	369.58	(0.01)
Market Loan	3.00	3.00	0.00
Salix, Invest to Save, HILS & TCL	3.44	3.32	(0.12)
TOTAL	376.03	375.90	(0.13)

The Salix interest free loans have been provided by an independent publicly funded company dedicated to providing the public sector with loans for energy efficiency projects.

This interest free Invest-2-Save funding is to assist in the conversion of traditional street lighting to LED, which will help deliver a legacy of reduced energy costs and associated carbon taxes.

The Home Improvement Loan Scheme (HILS) repayable funding is provided by the Welsh Government to help individual home owners, small portfolio landlords, developers and charities to improve homes and increase housing supply.

The Town Centre Loan (TCL) repayable funding is provided by the Welsh Government to provide loans to reduce the number of vacant, underutilised and redundant sites and premises in town centres and to support the diversification of the town centres by encouraging more sustainable uses for empty sites and premises, such as residential, leisure and for key services.

5.1 New Borrowing

No new loans were borrowed during the period.

5.2 Interest Paid

Interest paid on loans in the period was:

PWLB Interest Paid £m	Market Loan Interest Paid £m	Total Interest Paid £m
1.06	0.07	1.13

6. Rescheduling and Premature Loan Repayments

No rescheduling opportunities arose during the period and there were no premature repayments of debt.

7. Leasing

No leases were negotiated in the period ended 30th June 2016.

8. Conclusion

The Treasury Management function for the period ended 30th June 2016 has been carried out within the policy and guidelines set in the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2016-2017.

B. QUARTERLY PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT

1. Introduction

As part of the 2016-2017 Budget and the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2016-2017, Council adopted a number of Prudential Indicators. These Indicators are designed to ensure that any borrowing or other long-term liabilities entered into for capital purposes were affordable, sustainable and prudent.

The Indicators are required by the Local Government Act 2003 and the Revised Prudential Code of Practice in order to control Capital Finance. The Prudential Code also required that those Prudential Indicators that were forward looking should be monitored and reported. Some of the indicators are monitored by officers monthly, and are only reported if they are likely to be breached, others are to be monitored quarterly by the Executive Board.

2. The Monitored Prudential Indicators

2.1 Affordability Prudential Indicator

2.1.1 Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream

The indicator set for 2016-2017 in the Budget was:

	2016-2017 %
Non –HRA	5.77
HRA	37.46

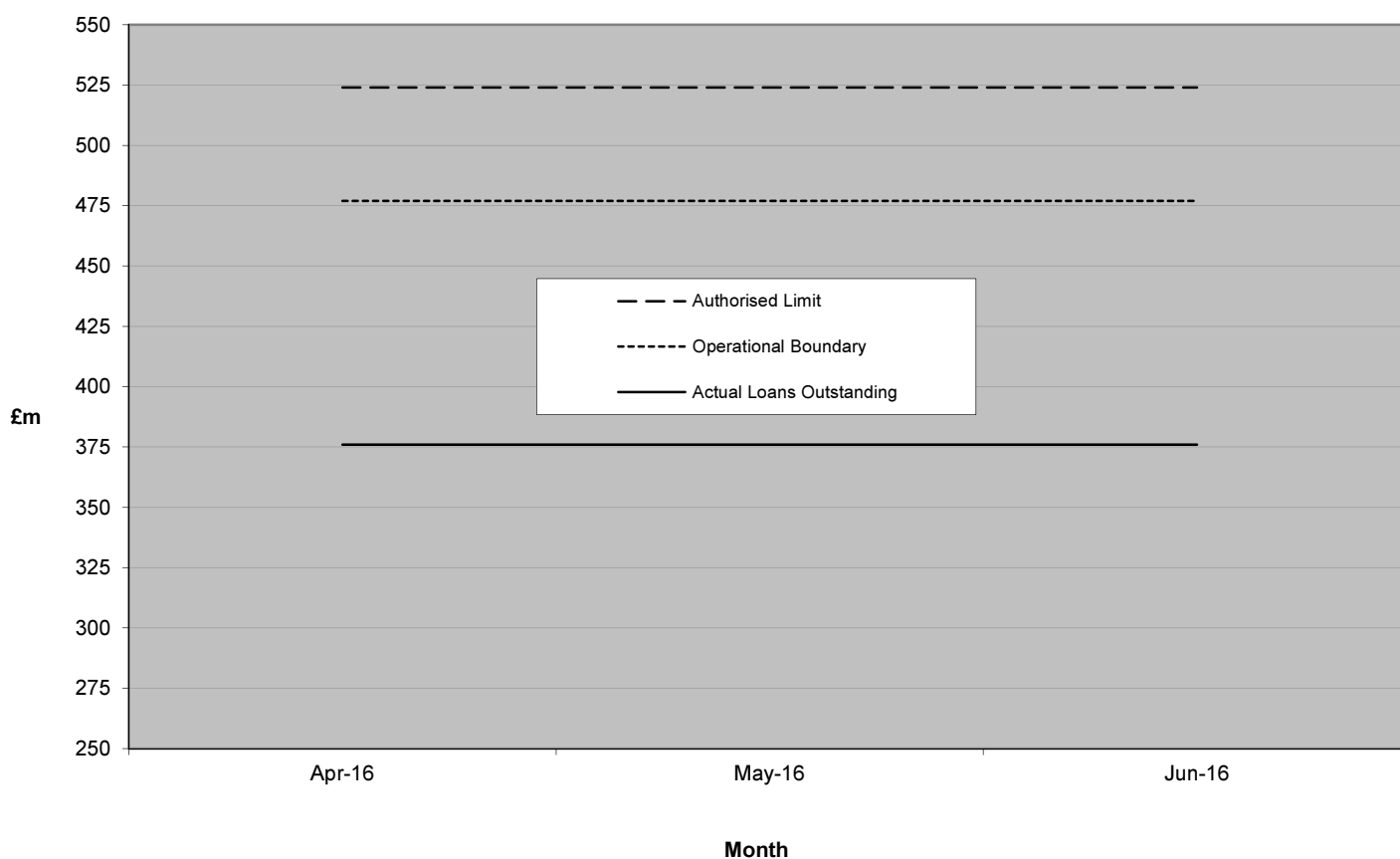
An examination of the assumptions made in calculating this indicator concluded that there have been no changes in the period.

2.2 Prudence Prudential Indicators

2.2.1 The Gross Borrowing and Capital Finance Requirement (CFR) indicator

The indicator set by the Budget for Gross Borrowing and CFR was that the Section 151 Officer envisaged no difficulty in meeting the requirement of the Gross Borrowing being less than the accumulated CFR for 2016-2017. An examination of assumptions made when calculating the Prudential Indicator show that there have been no material changes.

2.2.2 Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary



The actual value of loans outstanding must not exceed the Authorised Limit. In normal activity actual loans outstanding should be close but less than the Operational Boundary. The Operational Boundary can be breached in the short term due to adverse cash flows.

	Apr-16 £m	May-16 £m	Jun-16 £m
Authorised Limit	524	524	524
Operational Boundary	477	477	477
Loans Outstanding	376	376	376

Neither the Authorised Limit nor the Operational Boundary have been breached.

2.3 Treasury Management Prudential Indicators

2.3.1 Interest Rate Exposure

Position as at 30th June 2016:

	Fixed Interest Rate £m	Variable Interest Rate £m	TOTAL £m
Borrowed	372.90	3.00	375.90
Invested	(41.65)	(25.50)	(67.15)
Net	331.25	(22.50)	308.75
Limit	445.00	20.00	
Proportion of Net Borrowing Actual	107.29%	(7.29)%	100.00%
Limit	150.00%	10.00%	

The authority is within limits set by the 2016-2017 indicators.

2.3.2 Maturity Structure Of Borrowing

	Structure at 30.06.16 %	Upper Limit %	Lower Limit %
Under 12 months	2.39	15	0
12 months to 2 years	1.77	25	0
2 years to 5 years	6.55	50	0
5 years to 10 years	11.00	50	0
10 years to 20 years	18.90	50	0
20 years to 30 years	21.15	50	0
30 years to 40 years	23.88	50	0
40 years and above	14.36	50	0

The authority is within the limits set by the 2016-2017 indicators.

2.3.3 Maximum principal sums invested longer than 364 days

	2016-2017 £m
Limit	10
Actual as at 30 th June 2016	NIL

3. Conclusion

For the period 1st April 2016 to 30th June 2016 the actual Prudential Indicators to be monitored by the Executive Board are within the limits set by the Budget 2016-2017 and the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2016-2017. This is also true for the indicators being monitored by officers.

RECOMMENDATION

That Executive Board considers and approves the report.

Investment Summary as at 30th June 2016

Carmarthenshire County Council

Totals		
Total	£66,500,000	
Calls & MMFs	£25,500,000	38%
Fixed Deposits	£41,000,000	62%
Specified	£66,500,000	100%

Weighted Average		
Yield		0.53%
Maturity (Days)		
Total Portfolio	Total Portfolio	42.04
Long Term		
Short Term		
AAA	-	1.00
AA	F1	66.26
A	F1	15.65
BBB	F2	0.00
CCC	C	0.00

Risk Factors		
< 1 year	£1,835	0.003%
1 - 2 years	£0	0.000%
2 - 3 years	£0	0.000%
3 - 4 years	£0	0.000%
4 - 5 years	£0	0.000%
Total Portfolio	£1,835	0.003%

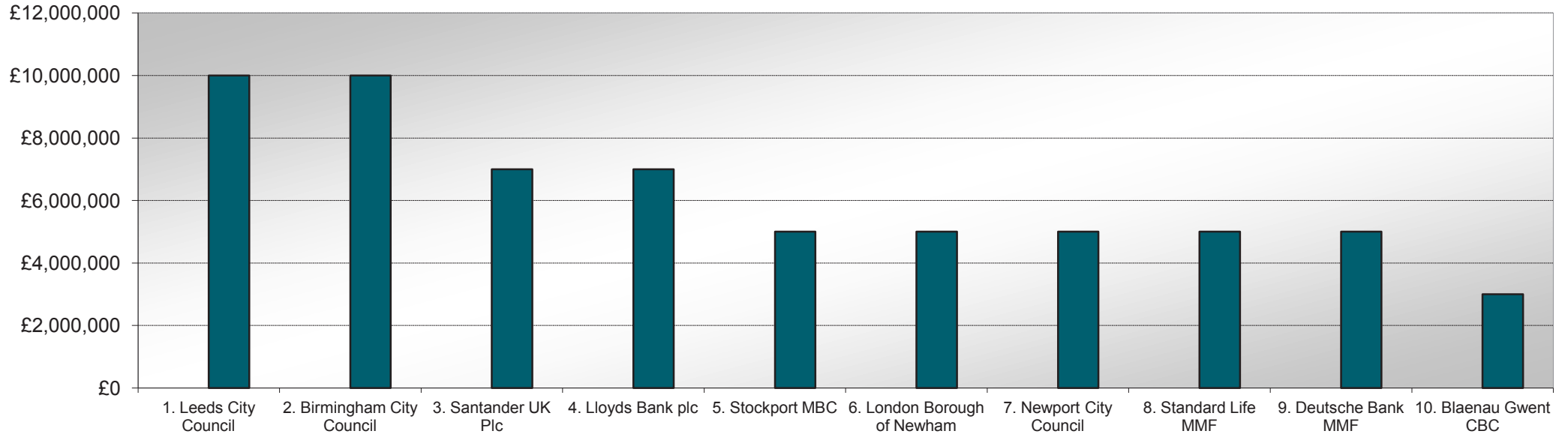
Maturity Structure		
< 1 Week	£25,500,000	38%
< 1 Month	£18,000,000	27%
2 - 3 Months	£13,000,000	20%
3 - 6 Months	£10,000,000	15%
6 - 9 Months	£0	0%
9 - 12 Months	£0	0%
12 Months+	£0	0%
Total	£66,500,000	100%

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Top 10 Counterparty Holdings

Carmarthenshire County Council

Counterparty	Principal	% of Total Holding	WAM (Days)	WAYield	WADefault
1. Leeds City Council	£10,000,000	15.38%	84	0.45%	0.004%
2. Birmingham City Council	£10,000,000	15.38%	24	0.44%	0.001%
3. Santander UK Plc	£7,000,000	10.77%	1	0.86%	0.000%
4. Lloyds Bank plc	£7,000,000	10.77%	1	0.62%	0.000%
5. Stockport MBC	£5,000,000	7.69%	21	0.45%	0.001%
6. London Borough of Newham	£5,000,000	7.69%	106	0.50%	0.005%
7. Newport City Council	£5,000,000	7.69%	155	0.50%	0.007%
8. Standard Life MMF	£5,000,000	7.69%	1	0.50%	0.000%
9. Deutsche Bank MMF	£5,000,000	7.69%	1	0.47%	0.000%
10. Blaenau Gwent CBC	£3,000,000	4.62%	11	0.44%	0.001%



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EXECUTIVE BOARD 17TH OCTOBER 2016

REVIEW OF NUMBER OF COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS REPRESENTING THE PONTYATES WARD AND LLANGYNDEYRN WARD OF LLANGYNDEYRN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Purpose: To seek Council's support for the proposal to decrease the number of Community Councillors that currently represent the Pontyates Ward and Llangyndeyrn Ward.

Recommendations / key decisions required:

1. That the Terms of reference and timetable for the review is noted
2. To consider and support the proposal

Reasons: Carmarthenshire County Council has received a request from Llangyndeyrn Community Council to reduce the number of Community Councillors representing the Pontyates Ward from 8 to 6 and to reduce the number of Community Councillors representing the Llangyndeyrn Ward from 4 to 3. Carmarthenshire County Council is responsible for undertaking this review under Section 31 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted NO

Exec Board Decision Required YES

Council Decision Required YES

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr. Pam Palmer

Directorate	Designations:	
Wendy Walters	Assistant Chief Executive	Tel Nos.01267 224112 01267 228609
Report Author:		E Mail Addresses:
Amanda Bebb	Electoral Services Manager	WSWalters@carmarthenshire.gov.uk ABebb@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Executive Board
17th October 2016

**Review of number of Community Councillors representing the
 Pontyates Ward and Llangyndeyrn Ward of Llangyndeyrn
 Community Council**

Carmarthenshire County Council has received an official request from Llangyndeyrn Community Council to review the Community Councillor ratio for both Pontyates and Llangyndeyrn Community Wards with the aim to decrease the overall membership by 2 Community Councillors.

Carmarthenshire County Council is responsible for undertaking the review and will consider all representations made at each stage of the review process.

The review will be conducted under Section 31 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013. On completion of the review the Council may propose and make changes to the number of Councillors representing the Pontyates and Llangyndeyrn Community Wards.

Any changes that occur as a result of the review process would then come into effect for the Local Government Elections which are scheduled for May 2017.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

Yes-See attached Terms of Reference

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Wendy S Walters

Head of Regeneration & Policy

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities NONE	Legal YES	Finance NONE	ICT NONE	Risk Management Issues NONE	Staffing Implications NONE	Physical Assets NONE
--	---------------------	------------------------	--------------------	---------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	--------------------------------

Legal

The review will be carried out in accordance with the requirements of Section 31 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below
Signed Wendy S Walters Head of Regeneration & Policy

1. Local Member

Councillor Tyssul Evans. Email of support to the proposal already received.

2. Community Council

Llangyndeyrn Community Council. Originators of request to reduce their overall membership by 2 Community Councillors.

3. Relevant Partners

AM for Carmarthen East and Dinefwr, Regional Assembly Members for Mid and West Wales Electoral Region, MP for Carmarthen East and Dinefwr will be consulted on both the draft proposal and final proposal.

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

A consultation exercise will be published under the i-Local-Have your Say on main Council website on both the draft proposal and final proposal.

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference
p16.doc

Please contact Amanda Bebb

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CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE
LLANGYNDEYRN COMMUNITY COUNCIL (PONYATES AND
LLANGYNDEYRN COMMUNITY WARDS)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS
TERMS OF REFERENCE

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Introduction

Carmarthenshire County Council is conducting a review of electoral arrangements to consider a request received from Llangyndeayrn Community Council to decrease the number of Community Councillors for two of their Community Wards, namely Pontyates Ward and Llangyndeayrn Ward.

Pontyates Ward currently has 8 Community Councillors and the request made asks for this to be reduced to 6 Community Councillors. Llangyndeayrn Ward currently has 4 Community Councillors and the request made asks for this to be reduced to 3 Community Councillors.

The first stage of the review is to ask all interested parties to consider this proposal and submit their views of support or objection for this change. All submissions will then be considered and final proposals drawn up and made available for further public consultation. If there are no objections, then the final proposals will be drawn up, published and adopted.

The review will start on 30th September 2016 with final recommendations being provisionally scheduled to be submitted for adoption in early New Year, 2017.

Why are we undertaking this review?

Carmarthenshire County Council has received an official request from Llangyndeayrn Community Council to review the Community Councillor ratio for both Pontyates and Llangyndeayrn Community Wards with the aim to decrease the overall membership by 2 Community Councillors.

What is the aim of the review?

Carmarthenshire County Council aims to ensure that community governance reflects the identities and interests of the community and that it is both effective and convenient.

What can be considered under this review?

In general terms this review will only look at the number of Community Councillors for both the Pontyates and Llangyndeayrn Community Wards. This is due to timescales as Local Election will take place in May 2017 and all warding arrangements, number of Councillors and naming of Communities has to be finalised by the publication of Notice of Election.

Who will undertake this review?

Carmarthenshire County Council is responsible for undertaking the review within its area. It will consider all representations made at each stage of the review process.

The review will be conducted under Section 31 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013. On completion of the review the Council may

propose and make changes to the number of Councillors representing the Pontyates and Llangydeyrn Community Wards.

Public Consultation and Submissions

When undertaking the review Carmarthenshire County Council is required to undertake such steps as it thinks fit to ensure that persons who may be interested in the review are informed of the proposal to conduct it and are informed of any draft proposals or recommendations. Carmarthenshire County Council undertakes to meet these duties by writing to:

- the Community Council, namely Llangydeyrn Community Council
- The Councillor representing the Llangydeyrn Electoral Division, the Assembly Member representing Carmarthen East and Dinefwr Assembly Constituency, the Regional Assembly Members for Mid and West Wales, the Member of Parliament representing the Carmarthen East and Dinefwr Parliamentary Constituency MP and local branches of political parties.

Carmarthenshire County Council will also give official notice at different stages of the review, deposit copies of reports and documents at the Council's Election Office and place appropriate documents on the Council's corporate website.

Comments and submissions may be made at two stages of the review, the draft proposals and then final proposals and recommendations.

All comments and submissions will be given due consideration in the review if the following criteria are met:

- Comments shall be received on the pro-forma submissions form or a form to like effect.
- Comments are received by midnight of the timetabled deadline.
- all comments are received with a name and address identifying the sender. Anonymous submissions will not be accepted, though personal details of members of the public will not be made public. Submissions from representative bodies and persons such as Councillors and AMs etc will be named within the report.
- where an organisation or an individual is making submissions concerning the proposal, they shall show how either maintaining the status-quo or making changes are desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government.

Carmarthenshire County Council will publish its recommendations as soon as practicable and take such steps as it considers sufficient to ensure that persons who may be interested in the review, including all persons that made a valid submission, are informed of the recommendations and the reasons behind them.

Timetable for the Review

Section 35 (4) of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 states that the "period for representation" is a period of not less than 6 weeks, nor more than 12 weeks beginning no earlier than one week after notice of the period is given.

The review will start on 30 September 2016 with final recommendations being provisionally scheduled for 2017. Any changes that occur as a result of the review process would then come into effect for the Local Government Elections which are scheduled for May 2017.

Action	Period	Date
Start of Review		30 September 2016
Draft Proposal Consultation i.e. Publish Draft proposals and Public Consultations period	9 weeks	30 September-2 December 2016
Consideration of submissions received	2 weeks	2 December 2016-16 December 2016
Final Proposal Consultation/Publication i.e. Publish final proposals and recommendations	9 weeks	16 December 2016-17 February 2017

Please note that the timetable for this review will vary dependent on the length of time necessary to prepare the draft and final proposals.

Supporting Information

Further information relating to the review, including electorate figures, and maps showing existing boundaries are available at the Council's Elections Office and the Council's Electoral Service Website.

Elections Office
 Block 4
 Parc Myrddin
 Richmond Terrace
 Carmarthen
 SA31 1HQ
www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Appendix A-Electorate Summary

Community Council	Council Electorate	No. Of Cllrs at present	Cllr/Elector Ratio	Proposed number of Cllrs	Cllr/Elector Ratio
Llangyndeyrn (Pontyates Ward)	1353	8	1:169	6	1:225
Llangyndeyrn (Llangyndeyrn Ward)	621	4	1:155	3	1:207

EXECUTIVE BOARD 17TH OCTOBER 2016

Subject :The 2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in Wales-Initial Proposals

Purpose: To consider the report and formulate comments and proposals on behalf of the Council to the Boundary Commission for Wales

Recommendations / key decisions required:

1. To consider the report and initial proposals
2. To submit a response to the Boundary Commission for Wales within the required timescales
3. To note that the Boundary Commission for Wales will hold 5 public hearings regarding this review. The Carmarthenshire venue will take place on the 12-13 October at the Ivy Royal Hotel.

Reasons: The Parliamentary Constituencies Review is now being undertaken by the four UK Boundary Commissions in their respective parts of the UK. The Boundary Commission for Wales are now seeking representation on their initial proposals. The review will take place over approximately two and a half years with final recommendations submitted to Parliament in September 2018 and if agreed the new constituencies will take effect at the next scheduled General Election in 2020.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted NO

Exec Board Decision Required YES

Council Decision Required YES

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr. Pam Palmer

Directorate	Designations:	Tel Nos.
Chief Executives-Regeneration and Policy		01267 224112 01267 228609
Name of Head of Service:	Assistant Chief Executive	E Mail Addresses:
Wendy Walters		WSWalters@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Report Author:	Electoral Services Manager	ABebb@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Amanda Bebb		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
EXECUTIVE BOARD
17TH OCTOBER 2016

**The 2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in Wales-
Initial Proposals**

1. Members will recall previous reports that were considered with regards to the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 (“the Act”) that required the four UK Boundary Commissions to conduct a review of the parliamentary constituencies in their part of the UK and to submit final reports to Government before 1 October, 2013. Members are reminded that no action was taken as a result of this previous review being postponed by Parliament, and that the Boundary Commission for Wales has now been tasked to complete the current review by September 2018.

Parliamentary Boundaries reflect the area where the electorate vote for their MP, the review will examine these areas and make proposals to Parliament for a new set of boundaries of equal size, with Parliament specifying that the review must reduce the number of constituencies in the UK from 650 to 600.

2. The Boundary Commission for Wales have now published their initial proposals and are seeking representation within 12 weeks. All representation will be considered by the Commission who will recommend whether and if so, how their initial proposals should be revised in light of the representations.
3. A summary of the proposals that effect Carmarthenshire County Council are as follows:
 - A new county constituency is created from the electoral wards within the existing South Pembrokeshire part of the existing Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire Constituency **and** the electoral wards within the existing Preseli Pembrokeshire Constituency. The proposed name for this new constituency is South Pembrokeshire (De Sir Benfro).

●A new county constituency is created from electoral wards within the existing Carmarthen East and Dinefwr constituency **EXCEPT for** the electoral wards of Cenarth and Llangeler **and** the electoral wards within the existing Carmarthen West part of the existing Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire Constituency. The proposed name for this new constituency is Caerfyrddin (Carmarthenshire).

●A new county constituency is created from the electoral wards within the existing Llanelli constituency **and** the electoral wards within the existing Gower Constituency, namely Gorseinon, Llangyfelach, Mawr, Penllergaer, Penyrheol and Pontardulais. The proposed name for this new constituency is Llanelli and Lliw (Llanelli a Lliw).

●A new county constituency is created from the existing Ceredigion constituency **and** the electoral wards of Cenarth and Llangeler (currently part of the existing Carmarthen East and Dinefwr Constituency) **and** the electoral wards Blaen Hafren and Llanidloes (currently part of the existing Montgomeryshire constituency) **and** the electoral wards of Cilgerran, Clydau, Crymych, Dinas Cross, Fishguard North East, Fishguard North West, Goodwick, Newport, Scloddau and St. Dogmaels (currently part of the existing Preseli Pembrokeshire Constituency). The proposed name for this new constituency is Ceredigion a Gogledd Sir Benfro (Ceredigion and North Pembrokeshire).

4. If the initial proposals are revised, there will be a further period of consultation before the Commission will publish their final recommendations for the whole of Wales and will draft and submit a formal report to Government.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?	YES
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IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Wendy S. Walters Assistant Chief Executive Regeneration & Policy

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities NONE	Legal NONE	Finance NONE	ICT NONE	Risk Management Issues NONE	Staffing Implications NONE	Physical Assets NONE
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CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Wendy S. Walters Assistant Chief Executive Regeneration & Policy

1. **Scrutiny Committee** Not applicable
2. **Local Member** The proposals affect Parliamentary boundaries and all local members have received a copy of the report.
3. **Community / Town Council** All Community and Town Councils will receive notification of the publication of the Commission's initial proposals
4. **Relevant Partners** The Commission has sent copies of their proposals to MPs, AMs and Political Parties
5. **Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations**
Information regarding the review can be found on the main Council website and copies of the initial proposals are available for inspection at all libraries in Carmarthenshire, Electoral Services, Parc Myrddin and Customer Services, 3 Spilman Street, Carmarthen

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Initial Proposals English	160815init propsfulle n.pdf	www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk
Initial Proposals Cymraeg	160815init propsfullc y.pdf	www.comffin-cymru.gov.uk



Boundary Commission for Wales

2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies

Initial Proposals Report

September 2016

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This document is also available from our website at www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk

Foreword

This report contains the Initial Proposals for Parliamentary constituencies in Wales. It is the beginning of the process of reviewing the existing constituencies and not the end. These are our initial views and we look forward, during the consultations, to hearing from the people of Wales on how these proposals might be amended and revised.

Since the last review was conducted in 2005, there have been significant changes to the legislation relating to Parliamentary constituencies. In addition, since the uncompleted Review in 2013 there have been changes in the size and distribution of the electorate across the UK. The Act of Parliament governing constituencies reduces the number of constituencies in the United Kingdom to 600. It also requires that the number of electors within each constituency falls within a particular range (save for four exceptions). These changes result in a reduction from the present 40 Parliamentary constituencies within Wales to 29 constituencies, and represent the most significant change to Wales' constituencies in a century. They have thus presented the Commission with a significant challenge in proposing new constituencies which satisfy the statutory requirements. This process is far from simple given the constraints within which the Commission must operate. It is not simply a question of moving lines on the map. We have begun with existing "building blocks", which are the electoral wards used within Wales for Parliamentary and local elections, and then developed proposals aimed at reflecting the statutory criteria for constituencies.

In developing our proposals, we have borne in mind, where possible, existing Parliamentary and local government boundaries and have sought to avoid or minimise the breaking of local ties. On occasions, we have had regard to special geographic considerations. These are, however, initial proposals. We will look carefully at every representation made to us to see if the initial proposals can be amended and improved. However, we will have to balance the issues raised in representations against all the other factors we have to consider and the constraints set out in the legislation.

Finally, may I thank the previous Deputy Chairman, Mr Justice Williams, who oversaw the preparatory work of the review, the Commissioners, Mr Loveluck and Professor M^cNabb, for their invaluable contributions, the Secretary and Deputy Secretary and the other officers of the Commission for their assistance in our work. I would also like to thank our statutory assessors in Ordnance Survey and the Office for National Statistics for their assistance and contributions.

Sir Clive Lewis
Deputy Chair

BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES

THE 2018 REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES IN WALES

INITIAL PROPOSALS REPORT

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

Chapter 1 Introduction

1. On 24 March 2016 the Boundary Commission for Wales ('the Commission') announced the start of the 2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in Wales in accordance with the provisions of the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 as amended by the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011. A summary of the relevant statutory framework and of the Commission's general approach to the reviews is to be found in the Commission's "*Guide to the 2018 Review*" (2016), which is available in English and Welsh from the Commission or on the Commission's web-site at www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk.
2. The Commission is an independent and impartial non-departmental public body which is responsible for reviewing Parliamentary constituency boundaries in Wales. The Commission is comprised of the Deputy Chair, Mr Justice Lewis, and two Commissioners, Paul Loveluck OBE (Member), and Prof Robert M^cNabb (Member). The Speaker of the House of Commons is a Member and the Chair by reason of his/her office but takes no part in the work of the Commission. It is supported by a Secretary, Mr Steve Halsall, and a Secretariat. This Report has been considered and approved by the Deputy Chair and two Commissioners.
3. The Commission is now publishing its initial proposals for public consultation. Those proposals take careful account of developments since the last general review, in particular the change to the legislation and application of the 2015 electoral statistics. It is emphasised, however, that the proposals are provisional. References to proposals, recommendations, decisions and conclusions within this document should therefore be read accordingly. Most significantly, great importance is attached to the opportunity now given for all concerned to make representations to the Commission, whether in support of or objecting to the proposals.
4. The Commission has decided to publish initial proposals for the whole of Wales in a single document. The Boundary Commissions for England and Scotland use groups of local authorities in order to conduct their reviews. Unfortunately, due to the geography of Wales and the strict requirements of the Rules the Commission must adhere to, it has not been possible to conduct the review in Wales in that manner. Rather, it has been necessary to conduct this review on an all-Wales basis.
5. Details of when and how to make representations are given later in this document (see Chapter 8).
6. The 2018 Review is a fresh review. It is based on a change from 40 constituencies being reduced to 29 reflecting the electoral data as at December 2015. The Commission's 2013 Review involved a change from 40 to 30 constituencies but using different electoral data. The proposals and representations made during the 2013 Review could not therefore be used for the 2018 Review. Representations that may have been submitted in the 2013 Review will not be reconsidered and new representations will need to be submitted for consideration in this review.

Chapter 2 Criteria for reviewing Parliamentary constituencies

Application of the provisions of the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011

1. The criteria described in this chapter apply to the review of Parliamentary constituencies.

Review cycle

2. A requirement of the Act states that the Commission must submit a periodical report on a general review of all the constituencies in Wales by 1 October 2018 and by 1 October every five years after that date.

Reduction in the number of constituencies

3. The UK electoral quota and reduction in the total number of UK constituencies from 650 to 600 will mean that the number of constituencies in Wales will be reduced from 40 to 29. The result will be a fundamental change to the existing pattern of constituencies in every part of Wales.

Statutory electorate range

4. The 2011 Act sets out in Schedule 2 a number of Rules which are relevant to the detailed development of proposals for individual constituencies.¹ Rule 2, which provides that – apart from four specified exceptions – every constituency must have an electorate (as at the review date) that is no less than 95% and no more than 105% of the ‘UK electoral quota’ (UKEQ). The UK electoral quota for the 2018 Review is, to the nearest whole number, 74,769.²
5. Accordingly, every constituency in Wales must have an electorate as at the review date that is no smaller than 71,031 and no larger than 78,507 (the statutory electorate range).
6. The only specified constituencies which are not subject to the operation of the UK electoral quota are the two constituencies on the Isle of Wight in England and the two constituencies in Scotland of Orkney and Shetland, and Na h-Eileanan an Iar.

Other statutory factors

7. Rule 5 in Schedule 2 provides for a number of other factors that the Commission may take into account in establishing a new map of constituencies for the 2018 Review, specifically:
 - Special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency;

¹ Schedule 2 to the 2011 Act is set out in full in Appendix C of the *Guide to the 2018 Review*, available on the Commission’s website.

² According to Rule 2(3) in Schedule 2 to the 2011 Act, the UK electoral quota is: 44,562,440 (the UK electorate as at the review date) divided by 596.

BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES

- local government boundaries as they existed on 7 May 2015 (see *Guide to the 2018 Review: Chapter 2 paragraph 2*);
- boundaries of existing constituencies; and,
- any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies.³

Special geographical considerations

8. The Commission considers that special geographical considerations that may have an impact on the ability to form a constituency with an electorate within the statutory electorate range will primarily relate to physical geography such as mountains, hills, lakes, rivers, estuaries and islands, rather than to human or social geography. Matters of culture, history, socio-economics and other possible aspects of non-physical geography are more likely to arise as issues when considering the separate factor of 'local ties'.

Local government boundaries and local ties

9. The Commission may take into account local government boundaries. These include both the external boundaries of principal councils and their internal electoral ward, community and community ward boundaries.
10. While the Commission sought to take account of principal council external boundaries as far as practicable, it was nevertheless frequently necessary to cross these boundaries in order to form constituencies that comply with the statutory electorate range.
11. The Commission has used electoral wards as the basic building block for designing constituencies.
12. The Commission has in general sought to avoid dividing electoral wards between constituencies. Electoral wards are well-defined and well-understood units, which are generally indicative of areas which have a broad community of interest. However, in one case it has been considered appropriate to do so.

Boundaries of existing constituencies

13. In general, the Commission has sought to have regard to existing constituencies as far as possible. However, this does not mean that any existing constituency can be considered as protected from change even if its electorate figure falls within the statutory range or where a small amendment could bring it within the statutory range. Because of the reduction in the number of seats and the requirements in relation to the size of the electorate in each constituency, it may nevertheless be necessary to make alterations to such a constituency in order to achieve viable, conforming constituencies throughout Wales.

Interplay of the considerations

14. The policy of the Commission is to take into account all the factors listed in Rule 5 as far as possible, subject to the primacy of the statutory electorate range under Rule 2. The scale of

³ A further factor – 'the inconveniences attendant on such changes' – is expressly excluded for the 2018 Review, but may be considered for subsequent reviews.

the reduction of constituencies in Wales from 40 to 29 has sometimes made it particularly difficult to reflect the factors in Rule 5. Thus, for example, areas which have been historically separated may need to be combined. Similarly, associations of long standing may need to be set to one side and some less than obvious associations have had to be made on occasions.

15. The 2011 Act does not require the Commission to seek to achieve constituency electorates that are 'as close as possible to' the UK electoral quota. Nor does the Commission consider it appropriate to superimpose on the statutory scheme a policy objective of trying to minimise divergence from the UK electoral quota. Such an objective would undermine the ability of the Commission to properly take into account the factors listed in Rule 5 in accordance with the policy at paragraph 13. above. Therefore, by way of illustration, the Commission may prefer to identify a constituency that has, say, a 4% variance from the United Kingdom electoral quota, but which respected local ties, in preference to an alternative that produced a constituency with only a 1% variance, but which would split communities.
16. As far as possible, the Commission seeks to create constituencies:
 - From electoral wards that are adjacent to each other;
 - from whole communities; and,
 - that do not contain 'detached parts', i.e. where the only physical connection between one part of the constituency and the remainder would require travel through a different constituency.

Factors the Commission did not consider

Impact on future election results

17. The Commission is an independent and impartial body. It emphasises very strongly that existing voting patterns and the prospective fortunes of political parties do not enter its considerations.

New local government boundaries

18. The local government boundaries that the Commission may have regard to are – as stated above – those that existed on 7 May 2015. Consequently, the Commission has not taken into account new boundaries subsequent to that date.

Changes to electorates after the review date

19. The Commission is required to work on the basis of the numbers of electors on the electoral registers at the 'review date'. It cannot consider changes to the size of electorates after the 'review date'. In addition, it is unable to take account of any under-registration or over-registration of electors that may be claimed in a given area.

Naming and designating constituencies

20. In making its proposals, the Commission is also required by the Act to specify a name and designation for each proposed constituency. The Act contains little guidance on these points.

Naming

21. The Commission's policy on the naming of constituencies is that, when constituencies remain largely unchanged, the existing constituency name should usually be retained. In such cases constituency names are likely to be altered only where there is good reason for change.
22. For a new constituency, the name should normally reflect that of the principal council or principal councils wholly or mainly contained in the constituency. However, if there is a suitable alternative name which generally commands greater local support, the Commission will consider that alternative.
23. The Commission adopts compass point names when there is not a more suitable name. The compass point reference used will generally form a prefix in cases where a constituency name refers to the principal council area or former district council but a suffix where the rest of the name refers to a population centre. Examples of existing constituencies that demonstrate this principle are 'Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire' and 'Swansea West'.
24. The Commission considers that it is appropriate for each constituency in Wales to have an alternate name in Welsh or English. The Commission has therefore provided for official alternatives in Welsh for those constituencies names in English, and vice versa. In this way both languages would be treated equally. Where a constituency name is bilingual, for example Blaenau Gwent, there will be no alternative.

Designation

25. The 2011 Act also requires that each constituency is designated as either a 'county constituency' or a 'borough constituency'. The Commission considers that, as a general principle, where constituencies contain more than a small rural element they should normally be designated as county constituencies. In other cases they should be designated as borough constituencies. The designation is suffixed to the constituency name and is usually abbreviated: BC for borough constituency and CC for county constituency.
26. The designation generally determines who shall act as Returning Officer for Parliamentary elections. The designation also determines the limit on the amount that a candidate is allowed to spend during a Parliamentary election in the constituency. The limit is slightly lower in borough constituencies, to reflect the lower costs of running a campaign in an urban, usually more compact, area.

Chapter 3 The existing constituencies

Number of Electors

1. There are presently 40 constituencies in Wales. The number of electors in the constituencies ranges from 37,739 (Arfon CC) to 72,392 (Cardiff South and Penarth BC). Under the legislation the number of constituencies in Wales is reduced from 40 to 29 and the statutory electorate range of electors is between 71,031 and 78,507. As a result, only one existing constituency, Cardiff South and Penarth BC, is within the statutory range. One of the effects of reducing the overall number of constituencies allocated to Wales and the requirements of the statutory electorate range is that the existing constituency that has an electorate within the statutory range may, nonetheless, need to be altered as a result of the need to create viable constituencies in other areas. Significant changes will need to be made to the existing pattern of constituencies in order to meet the statutory range and number of constituencies.

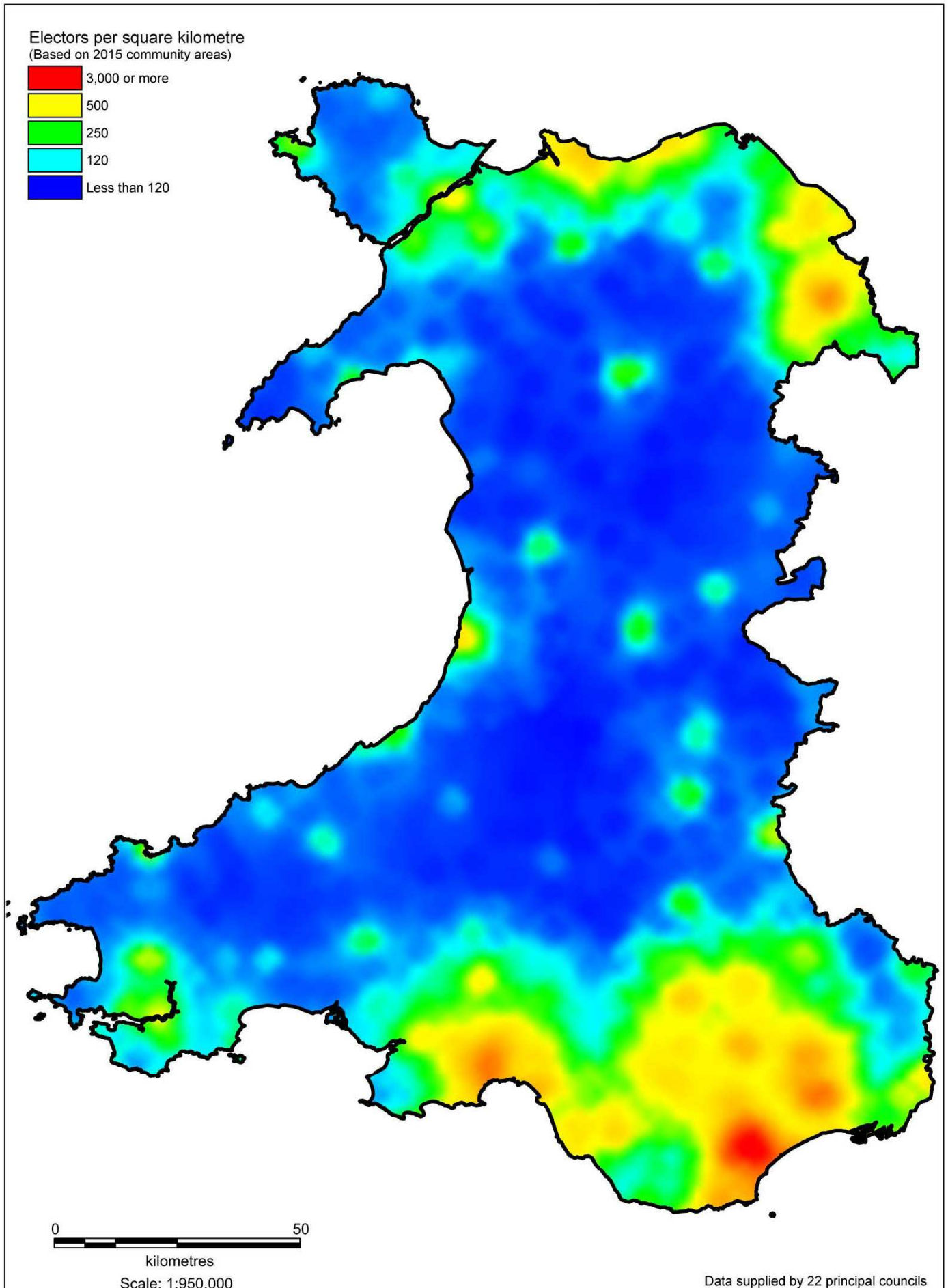
Constituency Size

2. The size (in terms of area) of existing constituencies ranges from 17km² (Cardiff Central BC) to 3,014km² (Brecon and Radnorshire CC). The maximum size of a constituency permitted under the new legislation is 13,000km². A constituency that size would cover approximately 61% of Wales. None of the proposed constituencies comes anywhere near the maximum size.

Pattern of Electorate

3. Given the relatively small number of electors in rural parts of Wales it is inevitable that under the new arrangements some constituencies will be very large in terms of area. (See Figure 1 on page 7). Furthermore, due to the relatively limited numbers of electors in some of the South Wales valleys, constituencies will have to encompass more than one valley. Similarly, in some urban areas, principal councils may need to be divided. Compromises will need to be made in order to create a pattern of constituencies across Wales that adheres to the Rules of the legislation. It is important to understand that even small changes to one constituency will have consequential impacts on adjacent areas and possibly more widely.

Figure 1: Electorate Distribution of Wales



Chapter 4 Summary of proposals

1. The new legislation has reduced the number of Parliamentary constituencies in Wales from 40 to 29.
2. No existing constituency would remain unchanged under the initial proposals. For many areas the proposed changes are considerable.
3. The UKEQ is 74,769 with a tolerance of between 95% and 105% of this figure (71,031 and 78,507 respectively). There are presently 39 constituencies below the minimum number of electors and one (Cardiff South and Penarth BC) which falls within the statutory range. Under the proposals all constituencies would be within the statutory range with nine constituencies below the electoral quota and 20 above the electoral quota.
4. Sixteen existing constituencies would be wholly contained within new constituencies (Alyn and Deeside, Blaenau Gwent, Brecon and Radnorshire, Bridgend, Cardiff West, Ceredigion, Cynon Valley, Llanelli, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney, Neath, Ogmore, Rhondda, Swansea East, Torfaen, Wrexham and Ynys Môn).
5. There are seven principal councils in Wales which fall below the maximum of the statutory electorate range and which therefore could be included wholly within a new constituency. These are Blaenau Gwent, Ceredigion, Denbighshire, the Isle of Anglesey, Merthyr Tydfil, Monmouthshire and Torfaen. Under the proposals six principal councils would be wholly contained within new constituencies (Blaenau Gwent, Ceredigion, the Isle of Anglesey, Merthyr Tydfil, Monmouthshire and Torfaen).
6. There would be six constituencies over 1,000 km² (Brecon, Radnor and Montgomery, Caerfyrddin, Ceredigion a Gogledd Sir Benfro, De Clwyd a Gogledd Sir Faldwyn, Gogledd Clwyd a Gwynedd, and South Pembrokeshire). Four of these constituencies would be between 2,000 and 3,000 km² (Caerfyrddin, Ceredigion a Gogledd Sir Benfro, De Clwyd a Gogledd Sir Faldwyn, and Gogledd Clwyd a Gwynedd), and one constituency over 3,000 km² (Brecon, Radnor and Montgomery).
7. Eight of the existing constituency names would be retained.
8. Of the 881 electoral wards in Wales 880 would be wholly contained within new constituencies. It has been considered appropriate to split one electoral ward in order to adhere to Rules 2 and 5 (Ponciau would be split into its community wards).

Chapter 5 Parliamentary constituencies

1. The proposed new constituencies are detailed in Chapter 6 and illustrated in outline maps in that Chapter (Pages 11 and 12). More detailed maps are also available on the Commission's website at www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk (please note the copyright warning, at Chapter 9 paragraph 1, concerning the maps) and are on deposit at a designated place(s) in each existing constituency (see Appendix 3 for details for each existing constituency). The maps are to be used in conjunction with the statistical information relating to the electoral wards described in the proposals. This information is also available to download from the Commission's website in Excel format and shows the electoral ward electorates with which the Commission are required by law to use for this review.
2. The Commission's initial proposals would, if adopted, result in a Parliamentary map of Wales very different to that with which we are familiar. The Commission has been faced with the task of devising proposals for the required 29 constituencies in place of the existing 40 constituencies. In doing so it has been further constrained by the absolute requirement that the electorate of every constituency must fall within the statutory range. As a result the Commission's freedom to give effect to other statutory considerations has, at times, been limited. Similarly, in considering the merits of alternative schemes, in some instances apparent solutions have been found not to be viable because they cannot be accommodated within the requirements as to size of electorate or because of their knock-on effects on other constituencies, all of which must comply with these same requirements. The Commission has, however, at every stage of its deliberations, sought to identify the solutions most suitable for local needs throughout Wales which can be accommodated within the statutory Rules.
3. The Commission would like to emphasise that these proposals represent the Commission's initial views and it welcomes the opinions and alternatives proposed by the public.

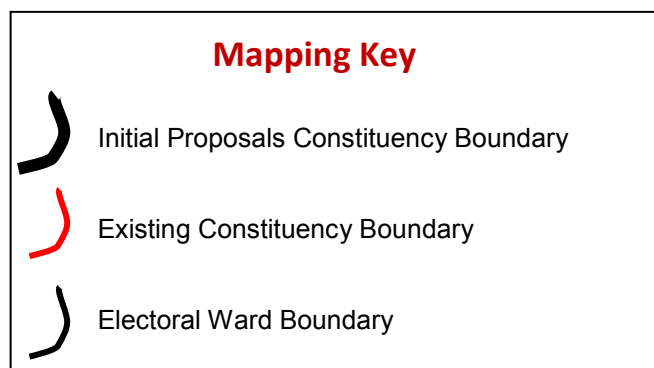
Chapter 6 Proposals in Detail

The Commission's initial proposals are described in detail in this chapter. For each proposed constituency the report sets out:

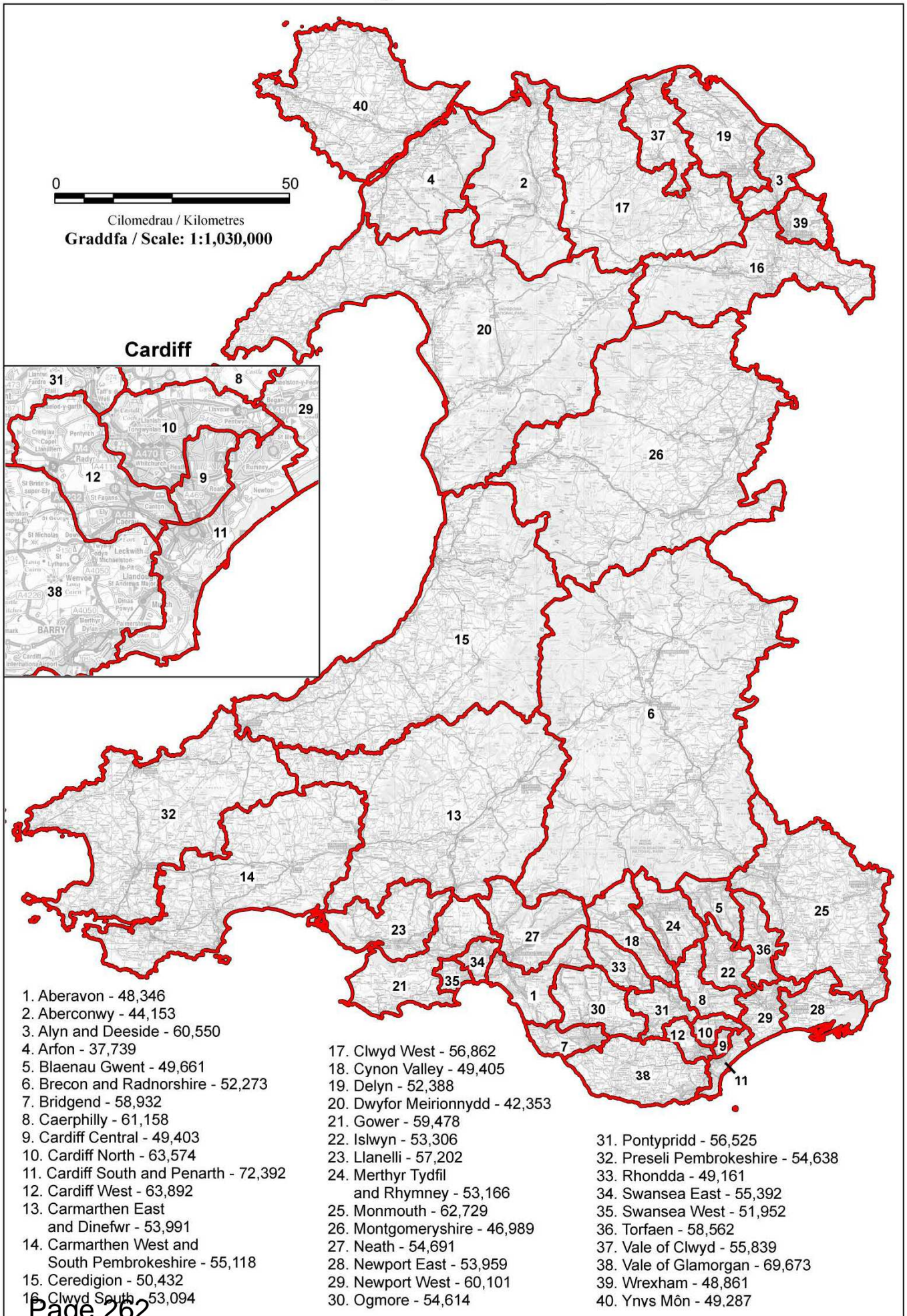
- The name of the constituency proposed by the Commission, including the proposed official alternative (if applicable);
- the composition of the constituency that the Commission is recommending, the electoral wards it would contain and its variance from the electoral quota;
- the key arguments explaining the proposed constituency;
- an explanation of the proposed name; and,
- a map of the recommended constituency.

In some instances, a blank page has been deliberately inserted to allow descriptions of each proposal and the map of the proposal to be viewed side-by-side.

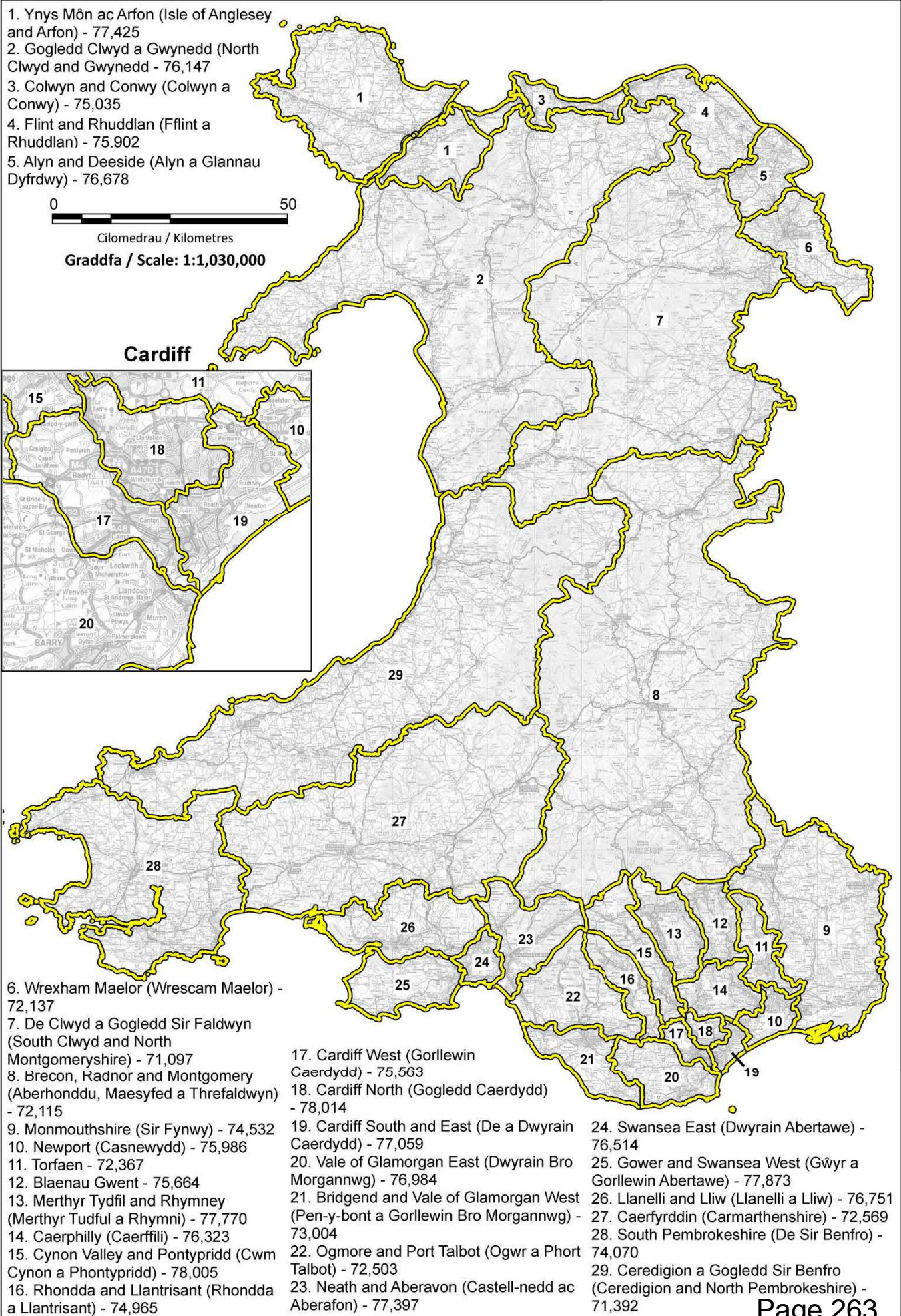
The following two pages set out an overall picture of the existing arrangements and the Commission's initial proposals. The Mapping Key shown below explains the colours and lines used in each proposals map from Page 14 onwards.



Existing Constituencies



Initial Proposals



1. Ynys Môn ac Arfon (Isle of Anglesey and Arfon)

1.1 It is proposed that a county constituency is created from:

1. The whole of the existing **Ynys Môn** CC consisting of the County of The Isle of Anglesey electoral wards of Aethwy (4,906), Bro Aberffraw (2,882), Bro Rhosyr (3,626), Caergybi (6,146), Canolbarth Môn (4,874), Llifôn (3,963), Lligwy (4,621), Seiriol (4,407), Talybolion (4,430), Twrcelyn (5,229) and Ynys Gybi (4,203); and,
2. the electoral wards within the existing **Arfon** CC and County of Gwynedd of Arllechwedd (971), Bethel (1,020), Cadnant (1,438), Cwm-y-Glo (710), Deiniol (496), Deiniolen (1,263), Dewi (1,098), Garth (420), Gerlan (1,559), Glyder (1,139), Hendre (835), Hirael (881), Llanrug (1,289), Marchog (1,446), Menai (Bangor) (839), Menai (Caernarfon) (1,671), Ogwen (1,556), Peblig (Caernarfon) (1,344), Penisarwaun (1,293), Pentir (1,636), Seiont (2,079), Tregarth & Mynydd Llandygai (1,531) and Y Felinheli (1,624).

1.2 This constituency would have 77,425 electors which is 3.6% above the UKEQ of 74,769 electors per constituency. The suggested name for the constituency is **Ynys Môn ac Arfon**. The suggested alternative name is **Isle of Anglesey and Arfon**.

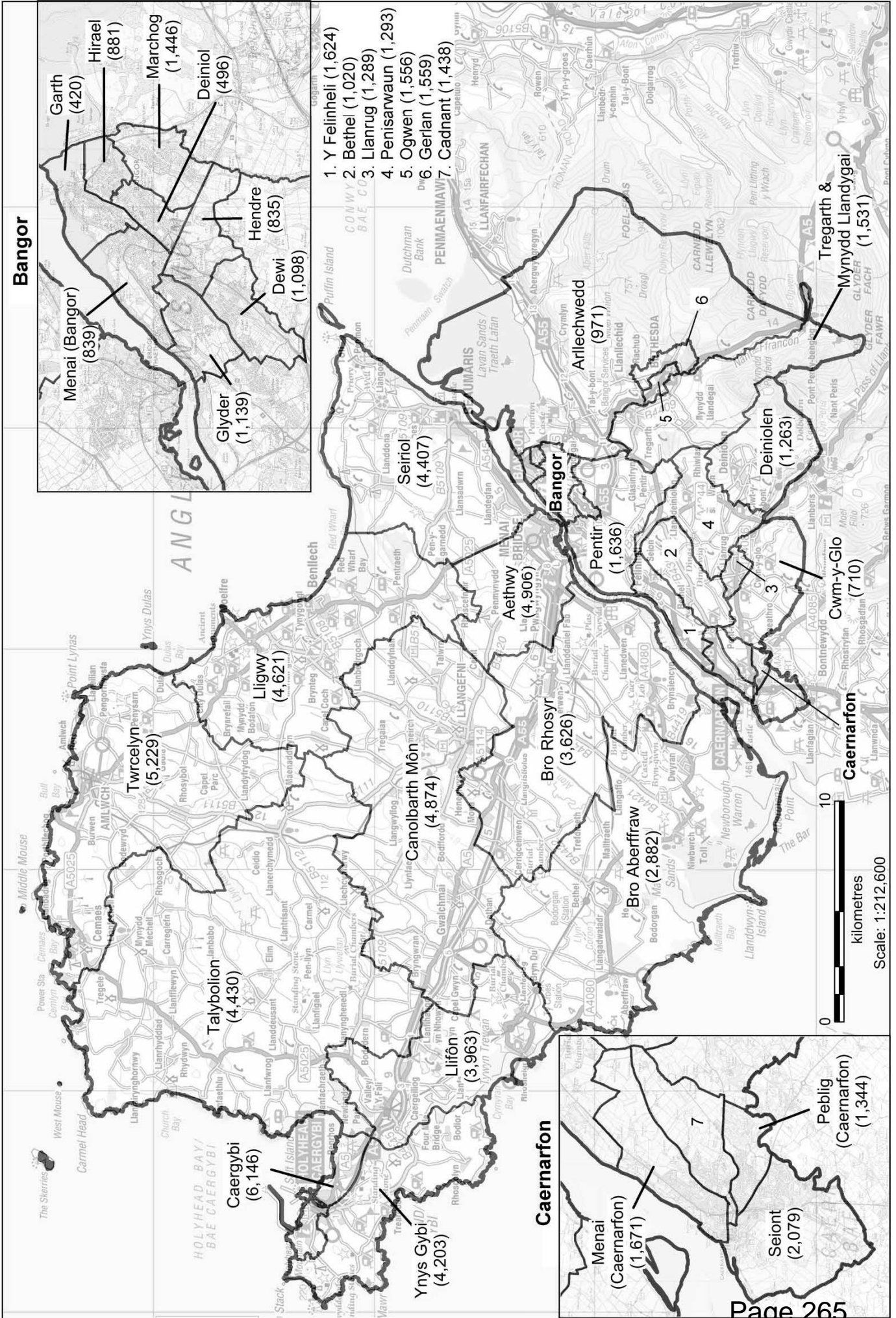
1.3 The Isle of Anglesey alone cannot meet the statutory requirements in respect of size of electorate. It is therefore necessary to include in the proposed new constituency a significant number of additional electors from the mainland. The City of Bangor, which is connected to the Island by road and rail across two bridges, has a natural link with Anglesey. In addition to the City of Bangor, some further electoral wards in the surrounding areas will have to be added to bring the constituency within the required electorate range. Several options were considered but it was felt that, due to the number of additional electors required and the requirement for the Commission to take into account local government boundaries, the constituency should encompass the wards surrounding Bangor and including the Town of Caernarfon and those wards immediately to the east of Caernarfon. In this way the constituency to the south of Anglesey falls entirely within the County of Gwynedd.

1.4 An alternative would be to include electoral wards to the north of Bangor but, particularly given the geographic size of 'Gogledd Clwyd a Gwynedd' (see page 15) and the electorate of 'Colwyn and Conwy' (see page 19), it was considered that this would involve adverse effects on the surrounding constituencies which would be less desirable.

1.5 As the existing constituency of Ynys Môn is included wholly within the constituency the Commission utilised that name first in the proposed constituency name. In order for the constituency to take account of the additional area to the south of Ynys Môn, an additional name is required. Several options were considered and due to the proportion of the existing Arfon constituency covered by the new constituency - approximately 75% of the electorate - Arfon was considered the most appropriate name.

1.6 The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituency of **Arfon** can be found at page 15.

Ynys Môn ac Arfon (Isle of Anglesey and Arfon)



2. Gogledd Clwyd a Gwynedd (North Clwyd and Gwynedd)

2.1 It is proposed that a county constituency is created from:

1. The electoral wards within the existing **Aberconwy** CC and County of Conwy of Betws-y-Coed (932), Caerhun (1,609), Crwst (1,583), Eglwysbach (1,195), Gower (887), Trefriw (1,022), and Uwch Conwy (1,230);
2. the electoral wards within the existing **Arfon** CC and County of Gwynedd of Bontnewydd.(824), Groeslon (1,246), Llanberis (1,445), Llanllyfni (892), Llanwnda (1,428), Penygroes (1,289), Talysarn (1,276) and Waunfawr (1,201);
3. the electoral wards within the existing **Clwyd West** CC and County of Conwy of Betws yn Rhos (1,626), Llangernyw (1,147), and Llansannan (1,470);
4. the electoral wards within the existing **Dwyfor Meirionydd** CC and County of Gwynedd of Aberdaron (712), Aberdovey (851), Abererch (971), Abermaw (1,468), Abersoch (510), Botwnnog (698), Bowydd and Rhiw (1,211), Brithdir and Llanfachreth/Ganllwyd/Llanelltyd (1,080), Bryn-crug/Llanfihangel (732), Clynog (698), Corris/Mawddwy (917), Criccieth (1,263), Diffwys and Maenofferen (744), Dolbenmaen (888), Dolgellau North (862), Dolgellau South (992), Dyffryn Ardudwy (1,128) Efail-newydd/Buan (988), Harlech (1,419), Llanaelhaearn (1,121), Llanbedr (783), Llanbedrog (733), Llanengan (802), Llangelynin (1,505), Llanystumdwy (1,452), Morfa Nefyn (880), Nefyn (952), Penrhyndeudraeth (1,718), Porthmadog East (1,076), Porthmadog West (1,193), Porthmadog-Tremadog (918), Pwllheli North (1,407), Pwllheli South (1,218), Teigl (1,321), Trawsfynydd (1,070), Tudweiliog (661), and Tywyn (2,358); and,
5. the electoral wards within the existing **Vale of Clwyd CC** and the County of Denbighshire of Bodelwyddan (1,583), Denbigh Central (1,567), Denbigh Lower (3,575), Denbigh Upper/Henllan (2,371), St. Asaph East (1,375), St. Asaph West (1,265), Trefnant (1,496), and Tremeirchion (1,313).

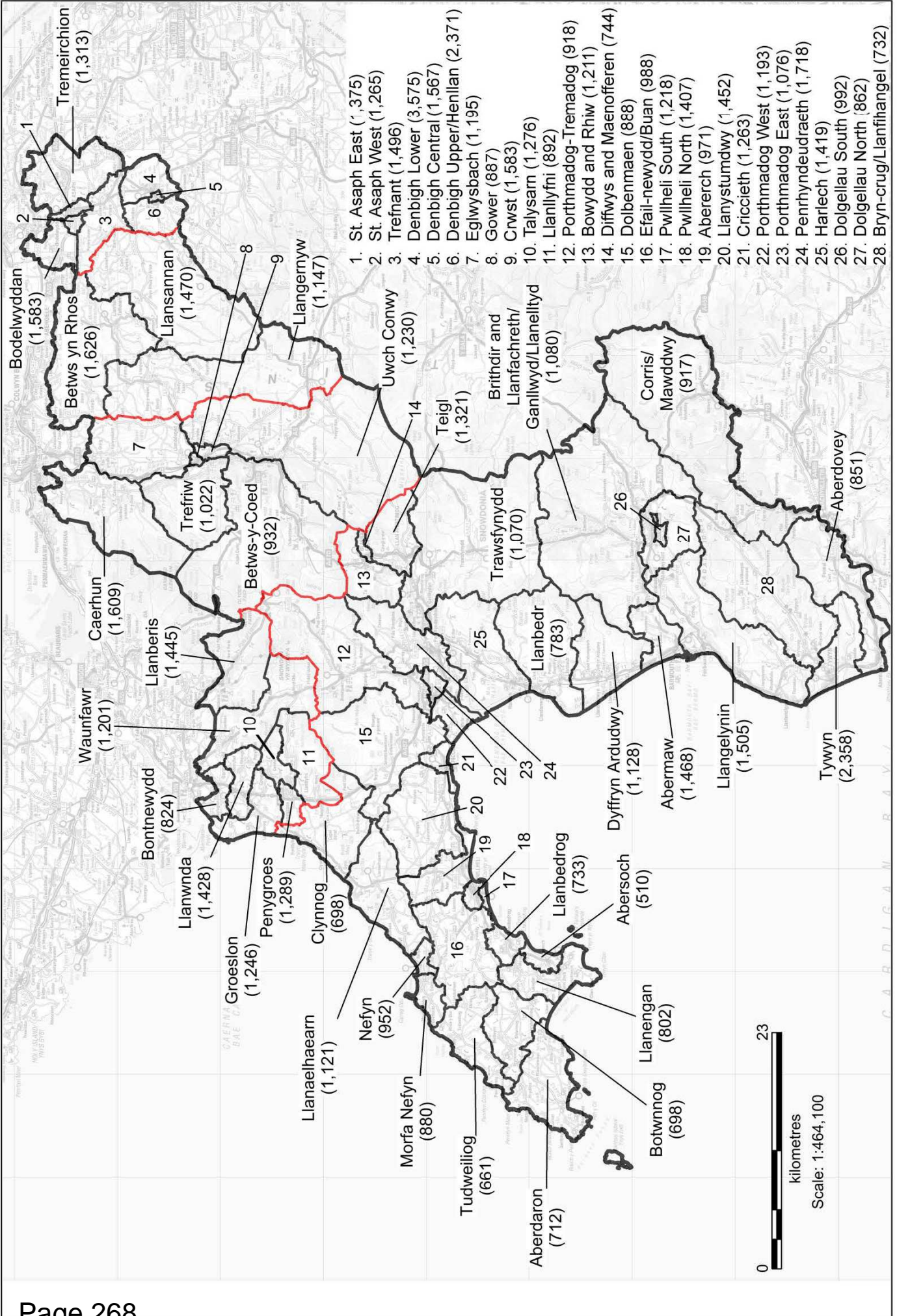
2.2 This constituency would have 76,147 electors which is 1.8% above the UKEQ of 74,769 electors per constituency. The suggested name for the constituency is **Gogledd Clwyd a Gwynedd**. The suggested alternative name is **North Clwyd and Gwynedd**.

2.3 As the electoral wards of the existing Arfon constituency not included in the proposed 'Ynys Môn ac Arfon' constituency and the wards of the existing constituency of Dwyfor Meirionnydd (except the three wards of Bala, Llandderfel, and Llanuwchllyn, see page 27) are all in the same principal council area of Gwynedd it was considered appropriate for them to join to form a constituency. However, there would still not be sufficient electors to form a constituency within the statutory range. Consideration was therefore given to including adjoining areas which might appropriately be included in this constituency.

2.4 The Commission considers that it would be appropriate to add the electoral wards from the south of the existing Aberconwy, Clwyd West and Vale of Clwyd constituencies. These wards are considered to all be similar both in social links, demography, rural outlook, and in topography to other electoral wards in the proposed constituency.

- 2.5 During the process the Commission were very mindful of the size of the constituency which, even though at 2,890km² it is well below the 13,000km² limit in the legislation, will still be a large, extensive constituency. The Commission considers that the proposal generally includes rural areas providing agricultural employment but also enjoying a common tourism base which includes the Snowdonia National Park. There is a rail link and the A470 road providing a good north/ south link in the west of the proposed constituency, and the A453 and other roads towards the east.
- 2.6 Due to the large extent of the constituency it was not considered appropriate to name all of the existing constituencies included in the proposal. The Commission concluded that an appropriate name for the eastern part of the constituency could be North Clwyd with the western part all covered by wards of the Gwynedd principle council. Due to the linguistic nature of the areas involved the Commission decided to give the proposal a Welsh language official name and an English language alternative name.
- 2.7 The Commission considered several alternative arrangements for North Wales including a possible rearrangement of the proposed 'Gogledd Clwyd a Gwynedd' and 'De Clwyd a Gogledd Sir Faldwyn' where all the remaining wards of the Gwynedd principle council area were included with North Montgomeryshire in one constituency and the areas in Conwy, Denbighshire and Wrexham combined to form another constituency. However, the Commission considered that whilst these constituencies would not combine as many parts of principal councils in different constituencies, a constituency extending from the Llŷn Peninsula to the English border may not be acceptable to those living in the affected areas.
- 2.8 The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituencies can be found at the following pages: **Aberconwy** (page 19), **Arfon** (page 13), **Clwyd West** (pages 19 and 27), **Dwyfor Meirionnydd** (page 28) and **Vale of Clwyd** (pages 21 and 27).

Gogledd Clwyd a Gwynedd (North Clwyd and Gwynedd)



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3. Colwyn and Conwy (Colwyn a Conwy)

3.1 It is proposed that a county constituency is created from:

1. The electoral wards within the existing **Aberconwy CC** and County of Conwy electoral wards of Bryn (1,349), Capelulo (1,179), Conwy (3,227), Craig-y-Don (2,801), Deganwy (3,235), Gogarth (2,829), Llansanffraid (1,807), Marl (3,500), Mostyn (2,751), Pandy (1,433), Pant-yr-Afon/Penmaenan (2,119), Penrhyn (3,784), Pensarn (2,075), and Tudno (3,606); and,
2. the electoral wards within the existing **Clwyd West CC** and County of Conwy electoral wards of Abergele Pensarn (1,905), Colwyn (3,288), Eirias (2,749), Gele (3,784), Glyn (2,935), Kinmel Bay (4,506), Llanddulas (1,323), Llandrillo yn Rhos (6,032), Llysfaen (1,862), Mochdre (1,458), Pentre Mawr (2,747), Rhiw (4,909), and Towyn (1,842).

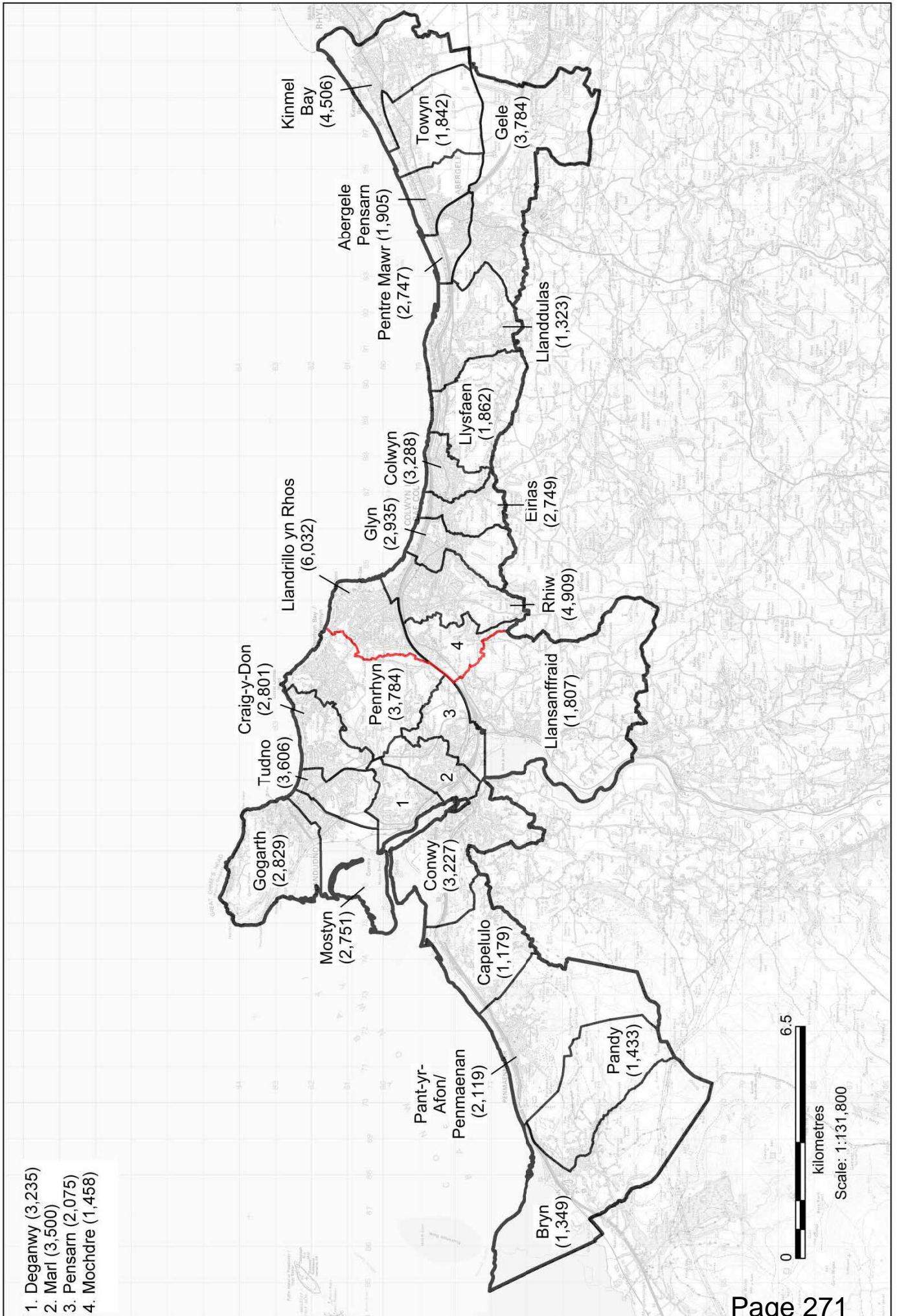
3.2 This constituency would have 75,035 electors which is 0.4% above the UKEQ of 74,769 electors per constituency. The suggested name for the constituency is **Colwyn and Conwy**. The suggested alternative name is **Colwyn a Conwy**.

3.3 It is proposed that the electoral wards from the northern part of the existing Aberconwy constituency and the northern part of the existing Clwyd West constituency would form a constituency with an electorate within the statutory range. It would embrace the north coast resorts of Abergele, Colwyn Bay, Conwy, Llandudno, Penrhyn Bay and Rhos on Sea. These areas are all part of the same principal council, similar in demography, connected by both road and rail and sharing the tourism industry as the mainstay of the local economy. The proposal would make for the most cohesive constituency.

3.4 It was considered that, as the proposal runs along the Conwy and Colwyn bays with these also being the names of the former district councils, the suggested name ought to reflect these.

3.5 The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituencies can be found at the following pages: **Aberconwy** (page 15) and **Clwyd West** (pages 15 and 27).

Colwyn and Conwy (Colwyn a Conwy)



4. Flint and Rhuddlan (Fflint a Rhuddlan)

4.1 It is proposed that a county constituency is created from:

1. The electoral wards within the existing **Delyn** CC and the County of Flintshire of Bagillt East (1,420), Bagillt West (1,559), Brynford (1,702), Caerwys (1,979), Cilcain (1,495), Ffynnongroyw (1,409), Flint Castle (1,324), Flint Coleshill (2,914), Flint Oakenholt (2,026), Flint Trelawny (2,645), Greenfield (1,965), Gronant (1,182), Gwernaffield (1,602), Halkyn (1,395), Holywell Central (1,389), Holywell East (1,361), Holywell West (1,766), Mostyn (1,413), Northop (2,439), Trelawnyd and Gwaenysgor (1,451) and Whitford (1,824)); and,
2. the electoral wards within the existing **Vale of Clwyd** CC and the County of Denbighshire of Dyserth (1,905), Prestatyn Central (2,814), Prestatyn East (3,219), Prestatyn Meliden (1,572), Prestatyn North (4,691), Prestatyn South West (2,848), Rhuddlan (2,851), Rhyl East (3,684), Rhyl South (2,948), Rhyl South East (6,007), Rhyl South West (3,736) and Rhyl West (3,367).

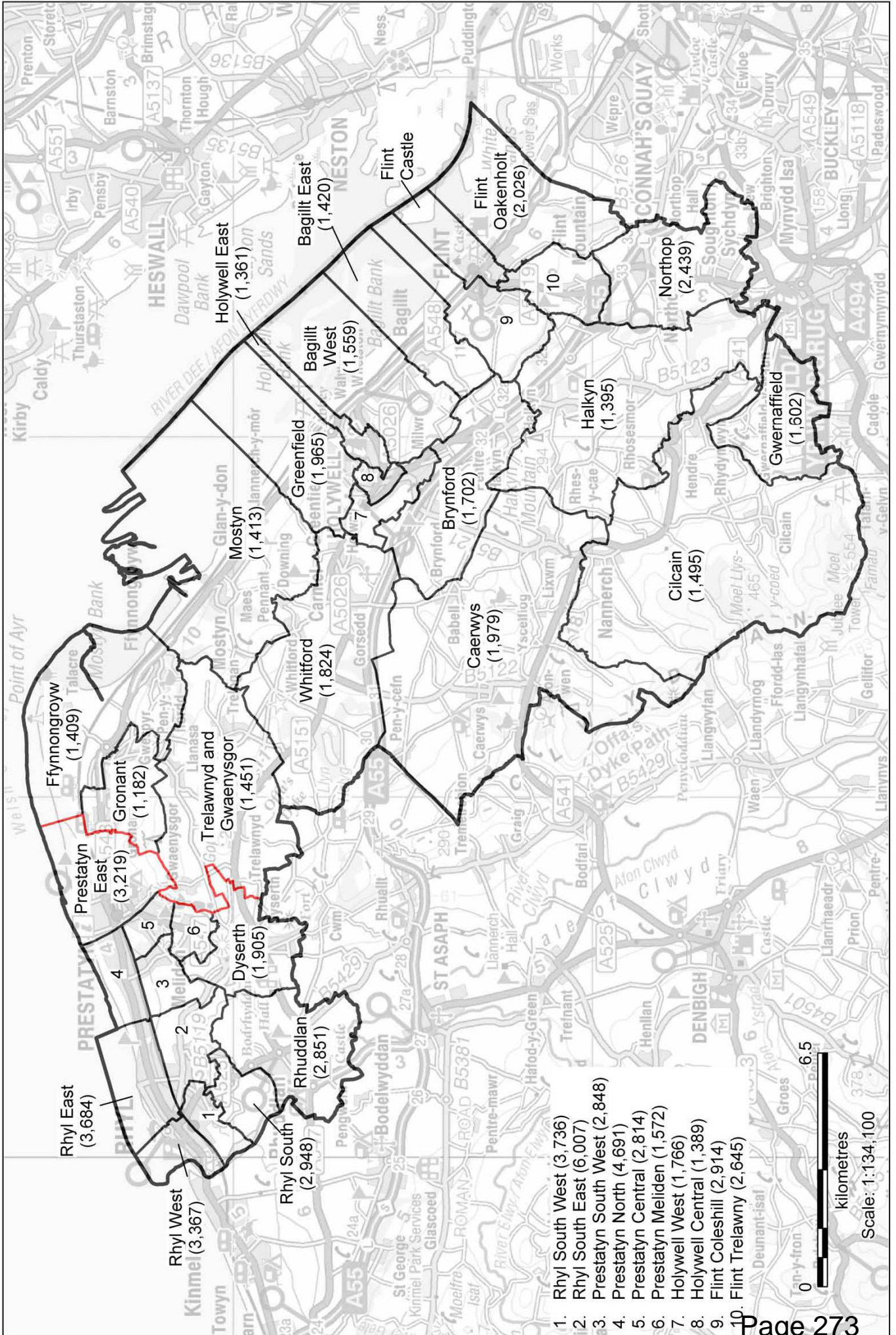
4.2 This constituency would have 75,902 electors which is 1.5% above the UKEQ of 74,769 electors per constituency. The suggested name for the constituency is **Flint and Rhuddlan**. The suggested alternative name is **Fflint a Rhuddlan**.

4.3 The Commission proposes to create a constituency running along the north Wales coast to the Dee Estuary, comprising electoral wards from the principal councils of Denbighshire and Flintshire. The proposed constituency would extend along the A55 corridor from Flintshire into Denbighshire. It would include those electoral wards in the existing Vale of Clwyd constituency which are not included in the proposed 'Gogledd Clwyd a Gwynedd' and 'De Clwyd a Gogledd Sir Faldwyn' constituencies (see pages 15 and 27). By combining these areas the statutory electorate range can be met and a constituency can be created from electoral wards with broadly similar characteristics along the Dee Estuary and inland.

4.4 The proposed constituency would comprise of a large part of the existing Flintshire principal council area and also the historic Rhuddlan District Council. The Commission would therefore propose to use both titles in the naming of this constituency.

4.5 The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituencies can be found at the following pages: **Delyn** (page 23) and **Vale of Clwyd** (pages 15 and 27).

Flint and Rhuddlan (Fflint a Rhuddlan)



5. Alyn and Deeside (Alyn a Glannau Dyfrdwy)

5.1 It is proposed that a county constituency is created from:

1. The whole of the existing **Alyn and Deeside CC** consisting of the County of Flintshire electoral wards of Aston (2,440), Broughton North East (1,660), Broughton South (2,808), Buckley Bistre East (2,596), Buckley Bistre West (3,139), Buckley Mountain (2,436), Buckley Pentrobin (3,956), Caergwrle (1,157), Ewloe (4,171), Connah's Quay Central (2,232), Connah's Quay Golftyn (3,662), Connah's Quay South (4,357), Connah's Quay Wepre (1,591), Hawarden (1,549), Higher Kinnerton (1,283), Hope (2,008), Llanfynydd (1,391), Mancot (2,582), Penyffordd (3,283), Queensferry (1,236), Saltney Mold Junction (878), Saltney Stonebridge (2,583), Sealand (1,917), Shotton East (1,267), Shotton Higher (1,678), Shotton West (1,409), and Treuddyn (1,281); and,
2. the electoral wards within the existing **Delyn CC** and County of Flintshire of Argoed (2,130), Gwernymynydd (1,371), Leeswood (1,543), Mold Broncoed (1,878), Mold East (1,491), Mold South (2,155), Mold West (1,965), New Brighton (2,347) and Northop Hall (1,248).

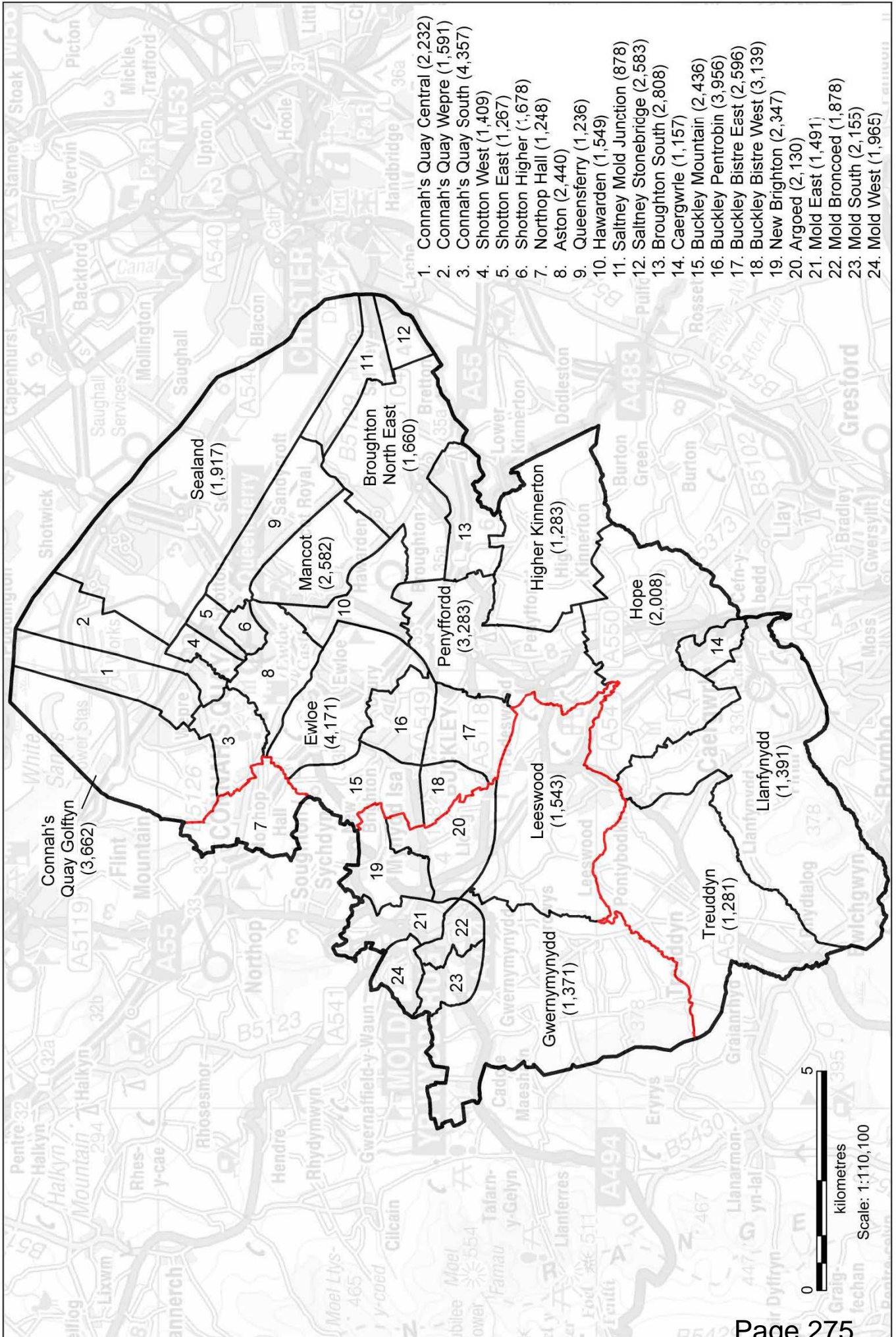
5.2 This constituency would have 76,678 electors which is 2.6% above the UKEQ of 74,769 electors per constituency. The suggested name for the constituency is **Alyn and Deeside**. The suggested alternative name is **Alyn a Glannau Dyfrdwy**.

5.3 The Commission proposes to create a constituency from the existing Alyn and Deeside constituency and electoral wards from the County of Flintshire. It is proposed that the electoral wards from the existing constituency of Delyn not included in the proposal for 'Flint and Rhuddlan' should be included in a new 'Alyn and Deeside' proposal. These would include the areas of Mold, New Brighton and Northop Hall and would create a constituency which would be within the statutory electorate range and it would contain electoral wards which are all within the County of Flintshire.

5.4 As the existing constituency of Alyn and Deeside is included wholly within the constituency the commission considered it appropriate to continue to use that name as the proposed name.

5.5 The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing **Delyn** can be found at page 21.

Alyn and Deeside (Alyn a Glannau Dyfrdwy)



6. Wrexham Maelor (Wreccsam Maelor)

6.1 It is proposed that a county constituency is created from:

1. The whole of the existing **Wrexham** CC and County Borough of Wrexham electoral wards of Acton (2,141), Borrass Park (1,941), Brynyffynnon (2,190), Cartrefle (1,547), Erddig (1,437), Garden Village (1,614), Gresford East and West (2,202), Grosvenor (1,518), Gwersyllt East and South (3,599), Gwersyllt North (1,967), Gwersyllt West (2,141), Hermitage (1,549), Holt (2,411), Little Acton (1,812), Llay (3,519), Maesydre (1,402), Marford and Hoseley (1,818), Offa (1,383), Queensway (1,436), Rhosnesni (2,838), Rossett (2,544), Smithfield (1,364), Stansty (1,631), Whitegate (1,590), and Wynnstay (1,267); and,
2. the electoral wards within the existing **Clwyd South** CC and County Borough of Wrexham of Bronington (2,540), Brymbo (2,982), Bryn Cefn (1,482), Coedpoeth (3,482), Esclusham (2,023), Gwenfro (1,214), Marchwiell (1,824), Minera (1,843), New Broughton (2,649), Overton (2,601) and Ponciau (without the Ponciau North, Ponciau South and Rhos wards of the Community of Rhosllanerchrugog) (636).

6.2 This constituency would have 72,137 electors which is 3.5% below the UKEQ of 74,769 electors per constituency. The suggested name for the constituency is **Wrexham Maelor**. The suggested alternative name is **Wreccsam Maelor**.

6.3 The electorate in the existing Wrexham constituency is not sufficient to form a constituency so consideration was given to combining electoral wards in the surrounding areas. It was considered appropriate to combine the existing Wrexham constituency with electoral wards of the existing Clwyd South constituency to the south and west of Wrexham. The additional electoral wards immediately adjacent to the existing Wrexham constituency are predominantly residential areas which may look to Wrexham as a centre of employment, retail and social activities.

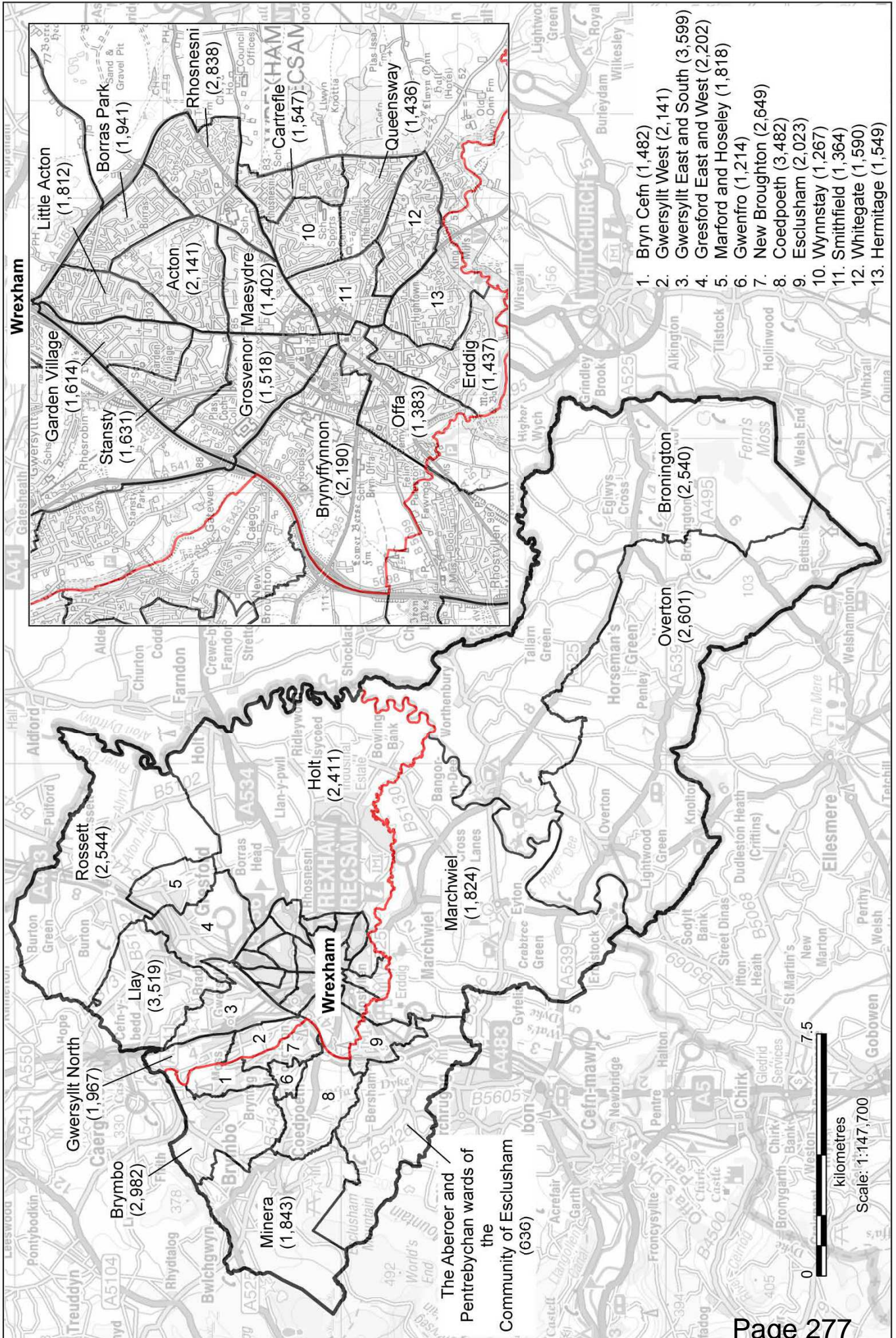
6.4 The electoral ward of Ponciau is comprised of the Aberoer and Pentrebychan wards of the Community of Esclusham and the Ponciau North, Ponciau South and Rhos wards of the Community of Rhosllanerchrugog. The Commission proposes placing the Aberoer and Pentrebychan wards of the Community of Esclusham into the proposed Wrexham Maelor constituency with remaining wards of the Community of Rhosllanerchrugog forming part of the proposed constituency of 'De Clwyd a Gogledd Sir Faldwyn' (see page 27).

6.5 Although this proposal splits an electoral ward it allows the Commission to adhere to Rule 2 of the legislation (the breaking of community ties) but also to take into account the considerations of Rule 5 both in this constituency and the surrounding areas.

6.6 As all the electoral wards involved in this proposal cover a similar area to the previous Wrexham Maelor District Council the Commission have chosen to use this name.

6.7 The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing **Clwyd South** can be found at page 27.

Wrexham Maelor (Wrecsam Maelor)



7. De Clwyd a Gogledd Sir Faldwyn (South Clwyd and North Montgomeryshire).

7.1 It is proposed that a county constituency is created from:

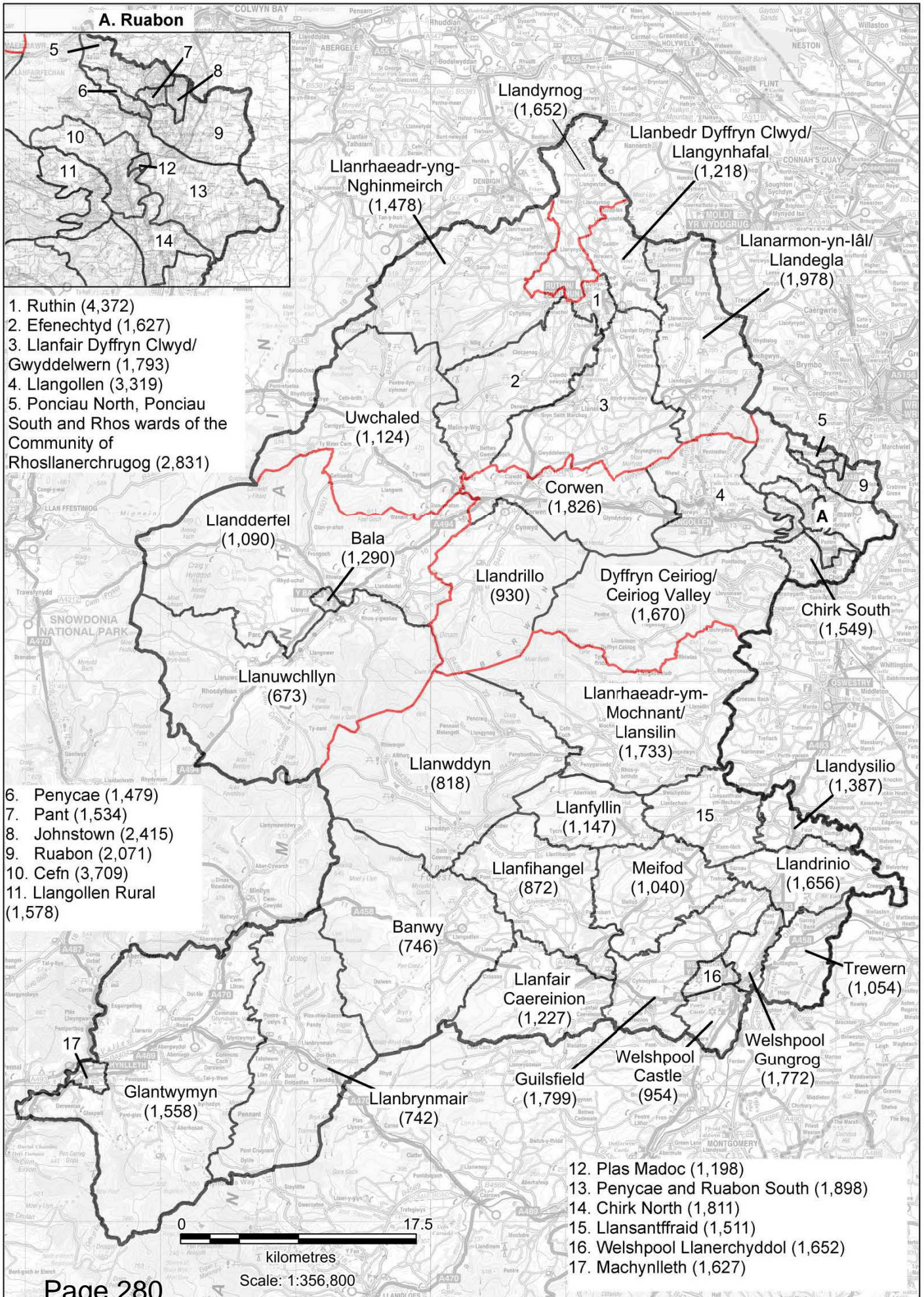
1. The following parts of the existing **Clwyd South** CC consisting of:
 - i. The County of Denbighshire electoral wards of Corwen (1,826), Llandrillo (930) and Llangollen (3,319); and,
 - ii. the County Borough of Wrexham electoral wards of Cefn (3,709); Dyffryn Ceiriog/Ceiriog Valley (1,670), Chirk North (1,811), Chirk South (1,549), Johnstown (2,415), Llangollen Rural (1,578), Pant (1,534), Penycae (1,479), Penycae and Ruabon South (1,898), Plas Madoc (1,198), Ruabon (2,071) and Ponciau (without the Aberoer and Pentrebychan wards of the Community of Esclusham) (2,831);
2. the following parts of the existing **Clwyd West** CC consisting of:
 - i. the County Borough of Conwy electoral ward of Uwchaled (1,124); and,
 - ii. the County of Denbighshire County electoral wards of Efenechtyd (1,316), Llanarmon-yn-lâl/Llandegla (1,978), Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd/Llangynhafal (1,218) Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd/Gwyddelwern (1,793), Llanrhaeadr-yng-Nghinmeirch (1,478) and Ruthin (4,372);
3. the electoral wards within the existing **Dwyfor Meirionnydd** CC consisting of the County of Gwynedd of Bala (1,290), Llandderfel (1,090) and Llanuwchllyn (673);
4. the electoral wards within the existing **Montgomeryshire** CC and County of Powys Glantwymyn (1,558), Banwy (746), Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant/Llansilin (1,733), Llanbryn-mair (742), Llanfair Caereinion (1,227), Llanfihangel (872), Llanwyddyn (818), Meifod (1,040), Llandrinio (1,656), Guilsfield (1,799), Welshpool Castle (954), Welshpool Gungrog (1,772), Welshpool Llanerchuddol (1,652), Trewern (1,054), Llanfyllin (1,147), Llansantffraid (1,511), Machynlleth (1,627) and Llandysilio (1,387); and,
5. the electoral ward within the existing **Vale of Clwyd** CC consisting of the County of Denbighshire of Llandyrnog (1,652).

7.2 This constituency would have 71,097 electors which is 4.9% below the UKEQ of 74,769 electors per constituency. The suggested name for the constituency is **De Clwyd a Gogledd Sir Faldwyn**. The suggested alternative name is **South Clwyd and North Montgomeryshire**.

7.3 The remaining electoral wards from the existing constituencies of Clwyd South, Clwyd West and the Vale of Clwyd were considered appropriate to combine in a constituency as they share similar rural, economic and social characteristics. However, there is an insufficient electorate in these areas to form a constituency. There is therefore a need to extend the proposal south encompassing the northern wards of the existing Montgomeryshire constituency. Wards from the existing Dwyfor Meirionnydd constituency have also been included to enable sufficient road access to all parts of the proposed constituency. The Commission acknowledges that this is the most disruptive change to the existing arrangements of all the newly proposed constituencies. The proposed constituency is geographically large at 2,704 km², reflecting the sparse population and rural nature of the area.

- 7.4 The electoral ward of Ponciau is comprised of the Aberoer and Pentrebychan wards of the Community of Esclusham and the Ponciau North, Ponciau South and Rhos wards of the Community of Rhosllanerchrugog. The Commission proposes placing the Ponciau North, Ponciau South and Rhos wards of the Community of Rhosllanerchrugog into the proposed 'De Clwyd a Gogledd Sir Faldwyn' constituency with the remaining wards of the Community of Esclusham forming part of the proposed 'Wrexham Maelor' constituency (see page 25).
- 7.5 Although this proposal splits an electoral ward it allows the Commission to adhere to Rule 2 of the legislation (the breaking of community ties) and also to take into account the considerations of Rule 5 both in this constituency and the surrounding areas.
- 7.6 The proposed constituency retains many electoral wards from the southern Clwyd area and combines mainly with the northern electoral wards of Montgomeryshire. The Commission has decided on the name to reflect the areas within the proposed constituency. Having regard to the linguistic characteristics of the larger part of the area involved, the Commission has decided to give the proposal a Welsh language official name and an English language alternative name.
- 7.7 As noted above at paragraph 2.7, the Commission considered several alternative arrangements for North Wales including a possible rearrangement of the proposed 'Gogledd Clwyd a Gwynedd' and 'De Clwyd a Gogledd Sir Faldwyn' where all the remaining wards of the Gwynedd principal council area were included with North Montgomeryshire in one constituency and the areas in Conwy, Denbighshire and Wrexham combined to form another constituency. However the Commission considered that, whilst these constituencies would not combine as many parts of principal councils in different constituencies, a constituency extending from the Llŷn Peninsula to the English border may not be acceptable to those living in the affected areas.
- 7.8 The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituencies can be found at the following pages: **Clwyd South** (page 25), **Clwyd West** (pages 15 and 19), **Dwyfor Meirionnydd** (page 15), **Montgomeryshire** (pages 31 and 73) and **Vale of Clwyd** (pages 15 and 21).

De Clwyd a Gogledd Sir Faldwyn (South Clwyd and North Montgomeryshire)



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8. Brecon, Radnor and Montgomery (Aberhonddu, Maesfyed a Threfaldwyn)

8.1 It is proposed that a county constituency is created from:

1. The whole of the existing **Brecon and Radnorshire CC** consisting of the County of Powys electoral wards of Aber-craf (1,110), Beguildy (1,099), Bronllys (957), Builth (1,809), Bwlch (774), Crickhowell (2,202), Cwm-twrch (1,486), Dissersh and Trecoed (1,045), Felin-fâch (1,030), Glasbury (1,754), Gwernyfed (1,163), Hay (1,137), Knighton (2,221), Llanafanfawr (1,103), Llanbadarn Fawr (861), Llandrindod North (1,417), Llandrindod East/Llandrindod West (892), Llandrindod South (1,562), Llanelwedd (951), Llangattock (749), Llangors (855), Llangunllo (1,025), Llangynidr (821), Llanwrtyd Wells (1,404), Llanyre (948), Maescar/Llywel (1,354), Nantmel (1,150), Old Radnor (1,292), Presteigne (2,129), Rhayader (1,486), St. David Within (1,210), St. John (2,521), St. Mary (1,852), Talgarth (1,241), Talybont-on-Usk (1,469), Tawe-Uchaf (1,680), Ynyscedwyn (1,686), Yscir (848) and Ystradgynlais (1,980); and,
2. the electoral wards within the existing **Montgomeryshire CC** and County of Powys of Berriew (1,064), Caersws (1,712), Churchstoke (1,214), Dolforwyn (1,587), Forden (1,083), Kerry (1,563), Llandinam (1,063), Montgomery (1,059), Newtown Central (2,103), Newtown East (1,391), Newtown Llanllwchaiarn North (1,726), Newtown Llanllwchaiarn West (1,361), Newtown South (1,242) and Rhiwcynon (1,674).

8.2 This constituency would have 72,115 electors which is 3.5% below the UKEQ of 74,769 electors per constituency. The suggested name for the constituency is **Brecon, Radnor and Montgomery**. The suggested alternative name is **Aberhonddu, Maesfyed a Threfaldwyn**.

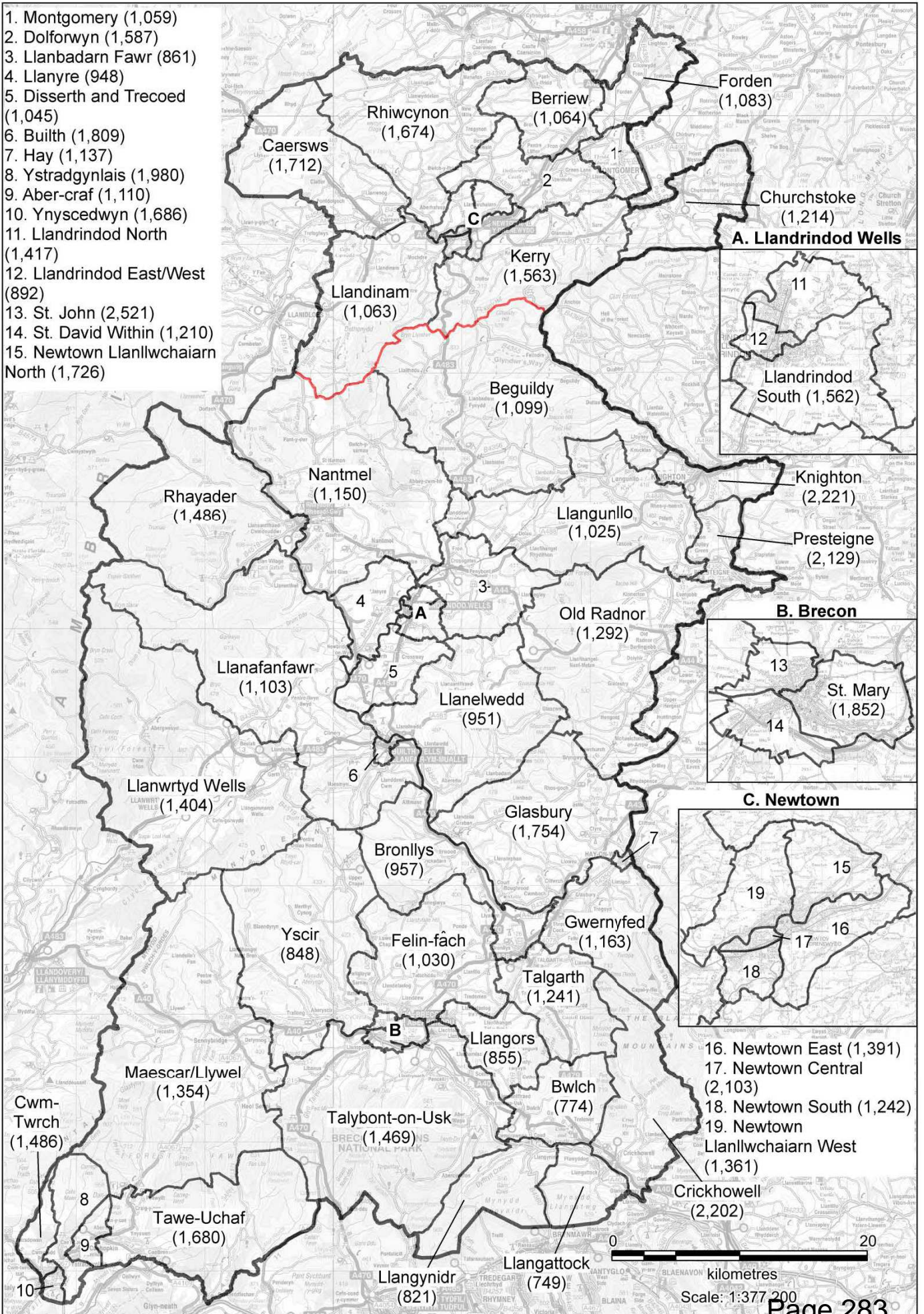
8.3 The existing constituency of Brecon and Radnorshire does not have a sufficient electorate to meet the statutory range. The Commission must therefore consider parts of the surrounding constituencies in order to increase the electorate to attain the statutory range in this area. The Commission considers that the most appropriate solution would be to include the majority of the southern electoral wards of the existing Montgomeryshire not included in the proposal for 'De Clwyd a Gogledd Sir Faldwyn', with the existing constituency of Brecon and Radnorshire to create the new constituency. This proposed constituency includes wards only from the Powys principal council area. This constituency would be 3,624km² and the largest of the proposed Welsh constituencies.

8.4 As the proposal contains the whole of the existing constituency of Brecon and Radnorshire and the historic town of Montgomery, it considers that the proposed name should include all these.

8.5 The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing **Montgomeryshire CC** can be found at pages 28 and 73.

Brecon, Radnor and Montgomery (Aberhonddu, Maesyfed a Threfaldwyn)

1. Montgomery (1,059)
2. Dolforwyn (1,587)
3. Llanbadarn Fawr (861)
4. Llanyre (948)
5. Disserseth and Trecoed (1,045)
6. Builth (1,809)
7. Hay (1,137)
8. Ystradgynlais (1,980)
9. Aber-craf (1,110)
10. Ynyscedwyn (1,686)
11. Llandrindod North (1,417)
12. Llandrindod East/West (892)
13. St. John (2,521)
14. St. David Within (1,210)
15. Newtown Llanllwchaiarn North (1,726)



9. Monmouthshire (Sir Fynwy)

9.1 It is proposed that a county constituency is created from the electoral wards of:

1. The electoral wards within the existing **Monmouth** CC and County of Monmouthshire of Caerwent (1,615), Cantref (1,579), Castle (1,507), Croesonen (1,607), Crucorney (1,691), Devauden (1,174), Dixton with Osbaston (1,793), Drybridge (2,423), Goetre Fawr (1,833), Grofield (1,285), Lansdown (1,540), Larkfield (1,475), Llanbadoc (1,014), Llanelly Hill (3,014), Llanfoist Fawr (1,616), Llangybi Fawr (1,439), Llanover (1,717), Llantilio Crossenny (1,422), Llanwenarth Ultra (1,073), Mardy (1,331), Mitchel Troy (953), Overmonnow (1,509), Portskewett (1,684), Priory (1,437), Raglan (1,510), Shirenewton (1,754), St. Arvans (1,253), St. Christopher's (1,762), St. Kingsmark (2,226), St. Mary's (1,414), Thornwell (1,860), Trellech United (2,122), Usk (1,862), and Wyesham (1,644); and,
2. the following parts of the existing **Newport East** CC consisting of:
 - i. The County of Monmouthshire electoral wards of Caldicot Castle (1,736), Dewstow (1,370), Green Lane (1,363), Mill (2,242), Rogiet (1,303), Severn (1,269), The Elms (2,408), and West End (1,438); and,
 - ii. the City and County of Newport electoral wards of Langstone (3,620) and Llanwern (2,645).

9.2 This constituency would have 74,532 electors which is 0.3% below the UKEQ of 74,769 electors per constituency. The suggested name for the constituency is **Monmouthshire**. The suggested alternative name is **Sir Fynwy**.

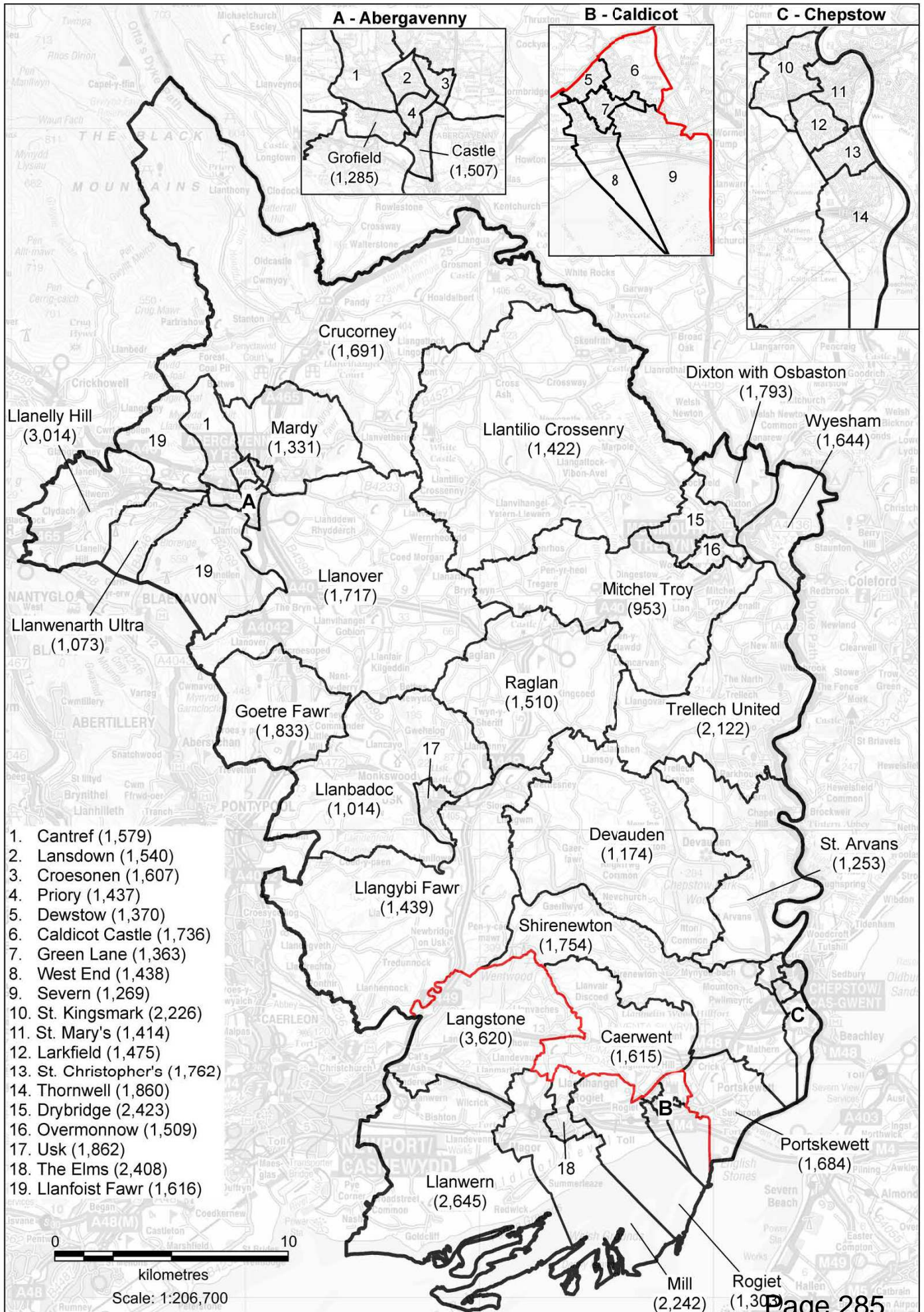
9.3 The Commission proposes to include the whole of the principal council of Monmouthshire in the new constituency. This would also retain the majority of the existing Monmouth constituency and would include the electoral wards of south Monmouthshire that are presently within the existing Newport East constituency.

9.4 However, if the principal council boundaries with Torfaen and Newport are to be respected, there will be insufficient electors in Monmouthshire to create a constituency within the statutory electorate range. The Commission therefore proposes to include within this constituency the electoral wards of Langstone and Llanwern, electoral wards of the City of Newport that are currently in the existing Newport East constituency. These electoral wards are connected to Monmouthshire by the M4, A48 and mainline railway. Their inclusion permits the proposed cohesive constituency to be formed and also allows the creation of appropriate constituencies in surrounding areas.

9.5 The proposed constituency represents the whole county of Monmouthshire in the constituency and it was considered appropriate to reflect this in the name of the constituency.

9.6 The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing **Monmouth** and **Newport East** constituencies can be found at page 37 and 35, respectively.

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Monmouthshire (Sir Fynwy)



10. Newport (Casnewydd)

10.1 It is proposed that a borough constituency is created from:

1. The electoral wards within the existing **Newport East** BC and City and County of Newport of Alway (5,427), Beechwood (5,353), Liswerry (7,897), Ringland (5,732), St. Julians (5,876), and Victoria (4,280); and,
2. the electoral wards within the existing **Newport West** BC and City and County of Newport of Allt-yr-Yn (6,368), Bettws (5,275), Gaer (6,084), Malpas (5,939), Marshfield (4,554), Pillgwenlly (4,067), Shaftesbury (3,548), Stow Hill (2,794), and Tredegar Park (2,792).

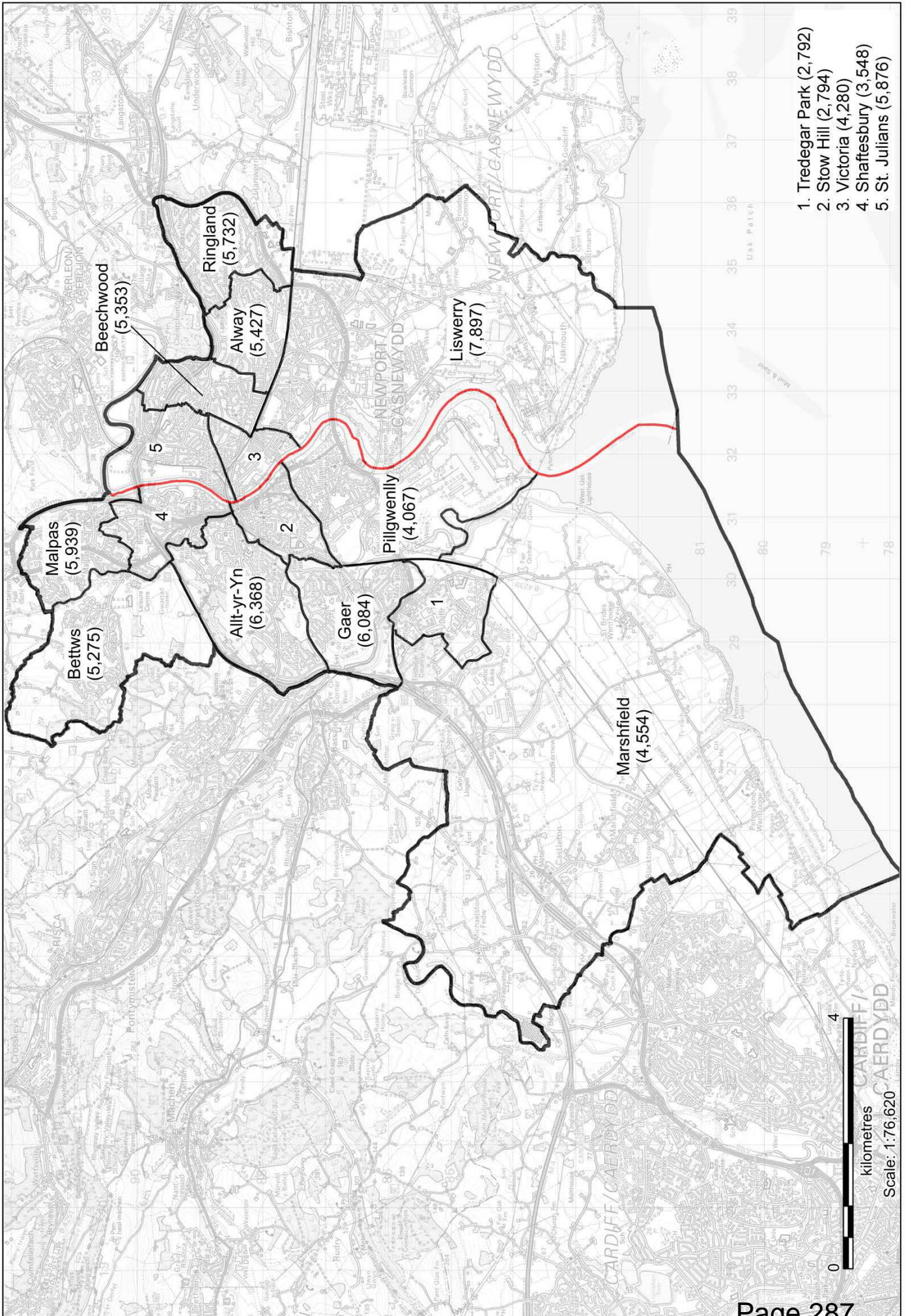
10.2 This constituency would have 75,986 electors which is 1.6% above the UKEQ of 74,769 electors per constituency. The suggested name for the constituency is **Newport**. The suggested alternative name is **Casnewydd**.

10.3 This proposed constituency is comprised of all but five of the electoral wards of the City and County of Newport. The proposed Newport constituency comprises well-connected electoral wards with a very similar character and outlook while allowing the formation of constituencies in the surrounding areas.

10.4 As the proposed constituency is wholly within the City and County of Newport it is considered appropriate that the name chosen should be Newport.

10.5 The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituencies can be found at the following pages: **Newport East** (page 33) and **Newport West** (pages 37 and 43).

Newport (Casnewydd)



11. Torfaen

11.1 It is proposed that a county constituency is created from:

1. The whole of the existing **Torfaen** CC and County Borough of Torfaen electoral wards of Abersychan (5,002), Blaenavon (4,193), Brynwern (1,243), Coed Eva (1,792), Cwmyniscoy (979), Fairwater (3,839), Greenmeadow (2,649), Llantarnam (4,099), New Inn (4,773), Panteg (5,585), Pontnewydd (4,370), Pontnewynydd (1,030), Pontypool (1,329), St. Cadocs and Penygarn (1,170), St. Dials (2,684), Snatchwood (1,535), Trevethin (2,300), Two Locks (4,525), Upper Cwmbran (3,739) and Wainfelin (1,726);
2. the electoral wards within the existing **Monmouth** CC and County Borough of Torfaen of Croesyceiliog North (2,580), Croesyceiliog South (1,420), Llanyrafon North (1,492), Llanyrafon South (2,099); and,
3. the electoral ward within the existing **Newport West** CC and City and County of Newport of Caerleon (6,214).

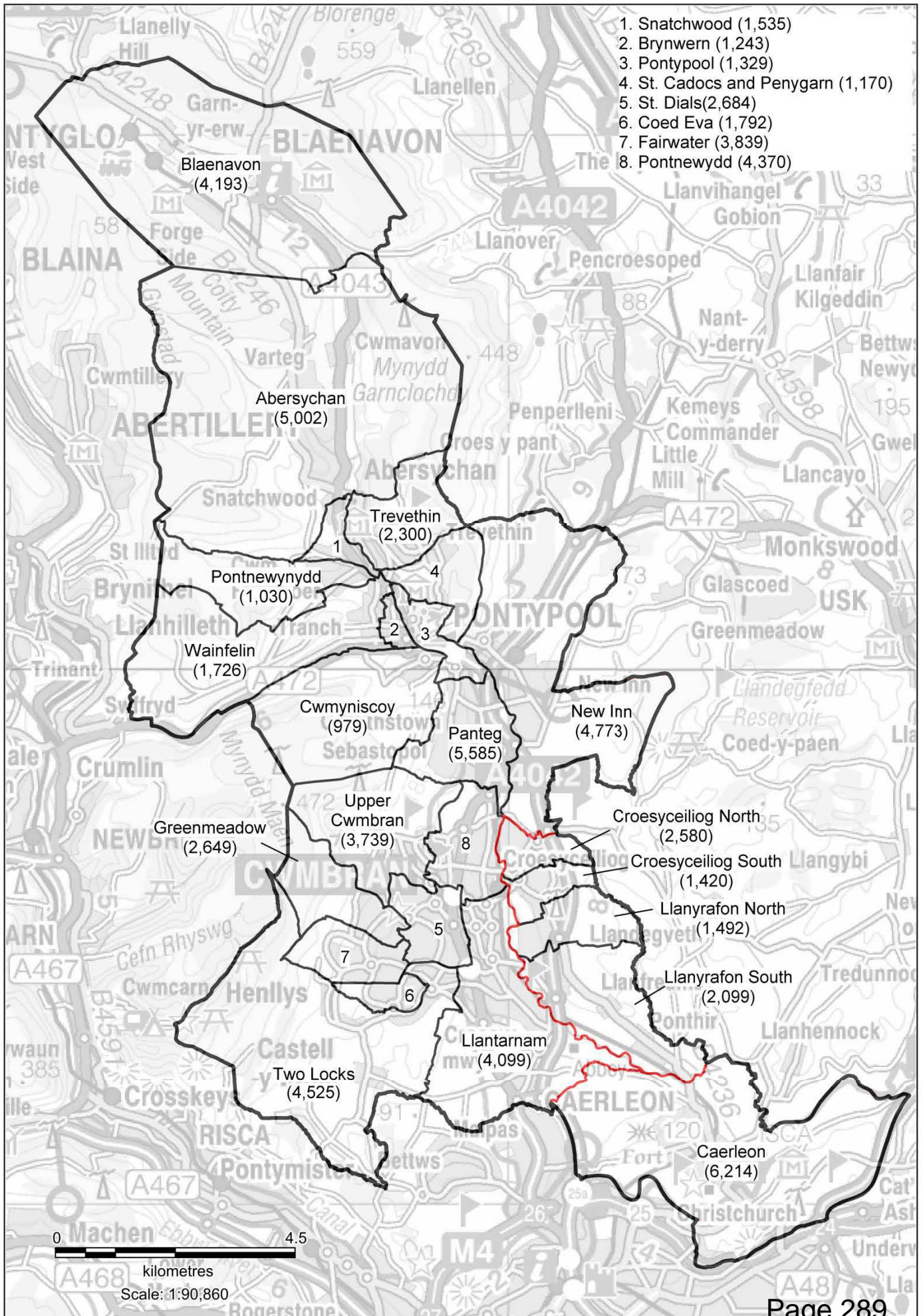
11.2 This constituency would have 72,367 electors which is 3.2% below the UKEQ of 74,769 electors per constituency. The suggested name for the constituency is **Torfaen**. As Torfaen is a name used in both the Welsh and English languages there is no other suggested official alternative name for this proposed constituency.

11.3 The Commission proposes to create a constituency which includes all of the electoral wards of the principal council of Torfaen. However, these wards are not sufficient in themselves to create a constituency within the statutory electorate range. The Commission considers that the most appropriate electoral ward to include in this proposal is Caerleon.

11.4 The proposed constituency would include the whole of the Torfaen principal council area and therefore the Commission considers that the suggested name would reflect the proposal.

11.5 The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituencies can be found at the following pages: **Monmouth** (page 33) and **Newport West** (pages 35 and 43).

Torfaen



12. Blaenau Gwent

12.1 It is proposed that a county constituency is created from:

1. The whole of the existing **Blaenau Gwent** CC consisting of the County Borough of Blaenau Gwent electoral wards of Abertillery (3,095), Badminton (2,428), Beaufort (2,768), Blaina (3,351), Brynmawr (3,826), Cwm (3,168), Cwmtillery (3,358), Ebbw Vale North (3,249), Ebbw Vale South (2,905), Georgetown (2,942), Llanhilleth (3,324), Nantyglo (3,187), Rassau (2,386), Sirhowy (4,125), Six Bells (1,702) and Tredegar Central and West (3,847); and,
2. the electoral wards within the existing **Islwyn** CC and County Borough of Caerphilly of Argoed (1,910), Blackwood (5,947), Cefn Fforest (2,765), Crumlin (4,195), Newbridge (4,611), Pengam (2,571) and Penmaen (4,004).

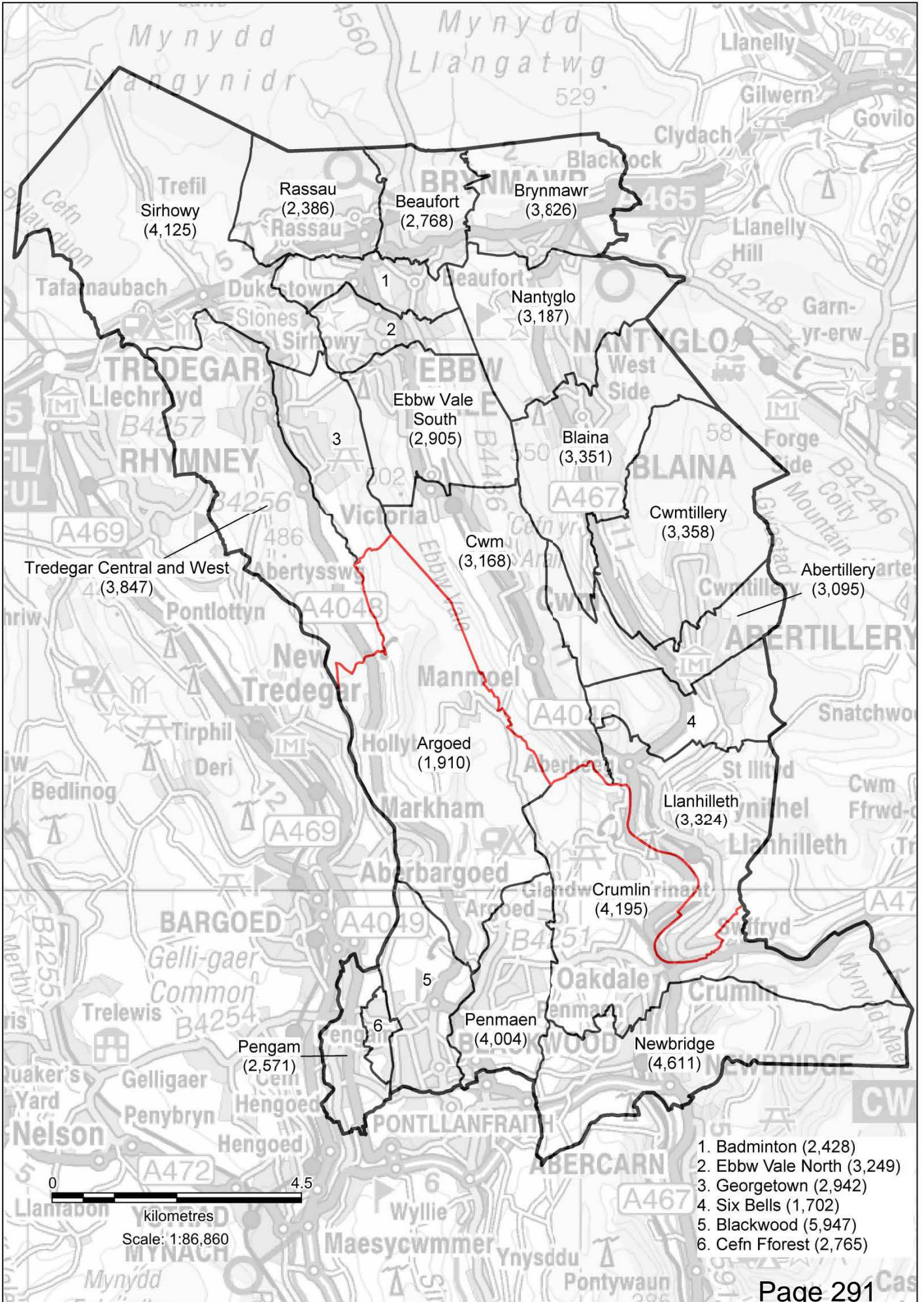
12.2 This constituency would have 75,664 electors which is 1.2% above the UKEQ of 74,769 electors per constituency. The suggested name for the constituency is **Blaenau Gwent**. As Blaenau Gwent is a name used in both the Welsh and English languages there is no other suggested official alternative name for this proposed constituency.

12.3 The existing Blaenau Gwent constituency does not meet the statutory requirements in respect of the size of electorate. It is therefore necessary to include in the proposed new constituency a significant number of additional electors from the surrounding constituencies. The northern electoral wards of the existing Islwyn constituency are connected to Blaenau Gwent via the A467 and A4048 and are a natural continuation of the valleys in this area. The Commission considers that these wards would provide a natural link to the existing constituency of Blaenau Gwent and are more appropriate than linking with areas to the north in Powys, east in Monmouthshire, or west, across the valleys. read

12.4 As the existing constituency of Blaenau Gwent is included wholly within the constituency the Commission considers it appropriate to continue to use that as the proposed name.

12.5 The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing **Islwyn** can be found at pages 41 and 43.

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Blaenau Gwent



1. Badminton (2,428)
2. Ebbw Vale North (3,249)
3. Georgetown (2,942)
4. Six Bells (1,702)
5. Blackwood (5,947)
6. Cefn Fforest (2,765)

13. Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney (Merthyr Tudful a Rhymni)

13.1 It is proposed that a county constituency is created from:

1. The whole of the existing **Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney** CC consisting of:
 - i. the County Borough of Caerphilly electoral wards of Darren Valley (1,760), Moriah (3,031), New Tredegar (3,233), Pontlottyn (1,405), and Twyn Carno (1,655); and,
 - ii. the County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil electoral wards of Bedlinog (2,649), Cyfarthfa (4,961), Dowlais (4,736), Gurnos (3,309), Merthyr Vale (2,663), Park (3,176), Penydarren (3,678), Plymouth (3,855), Town (5,580), Treharris (4,831) and Vaynor (2,644);
2. the electoral wards within the existing **Caerphilly** CC and County Borough of Caerphilly of Bargoed (4,277), Gilfach (1,481), Hengoed (3,617), Nelson (3,374), St. Cattwg (5,400) and Ystrad Mynach (3,935): and,
3. the electoral ward within the existing **Islwyn** CC and County Borough of Caerphilly of Aberbargoed (2,520).

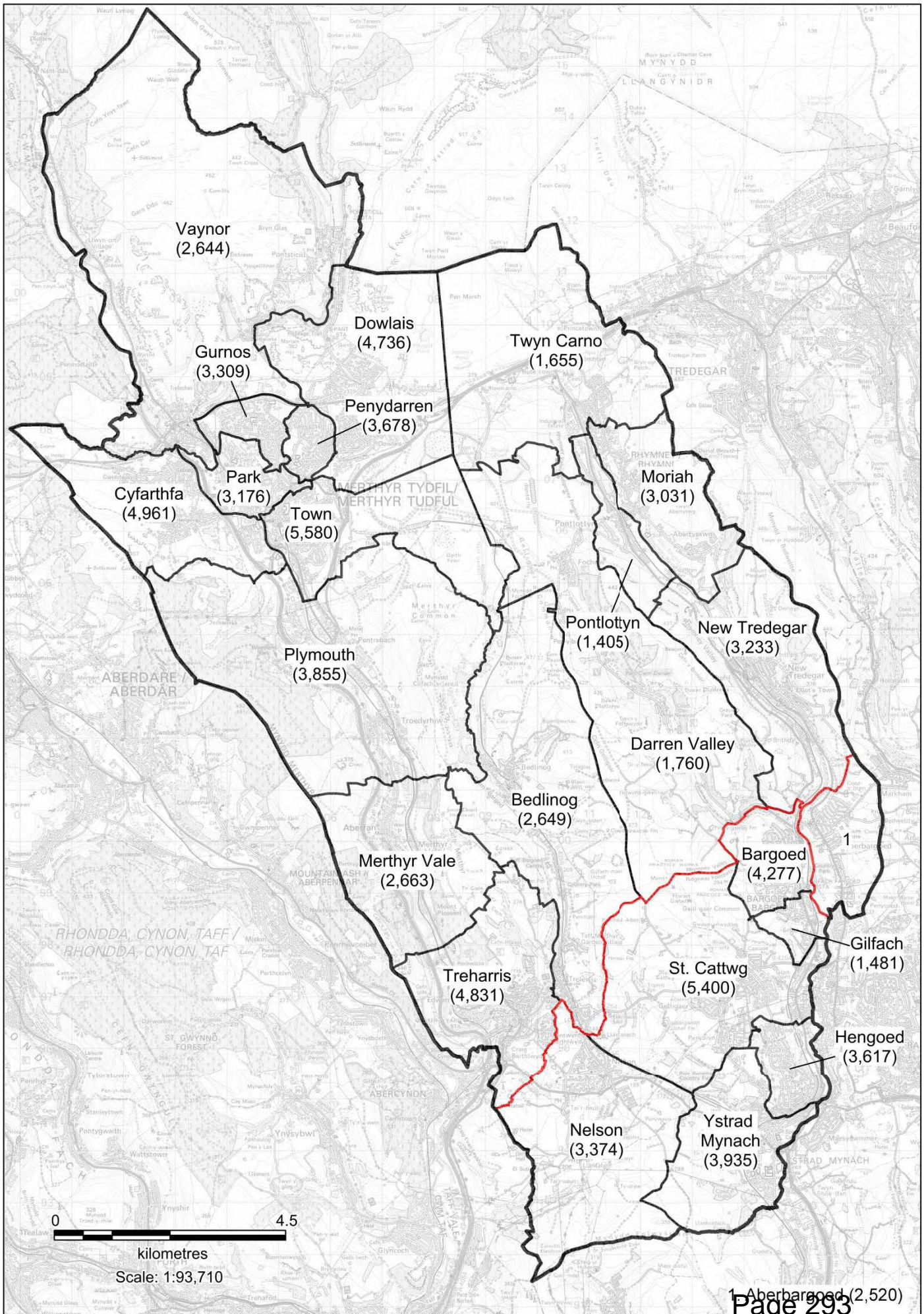
13.2 This constituency would have 77,770 electors which is 4% above the UKEQ of 74,769 electors per constituency. The suggested name for the constituency is **Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney**. The suggested alternative name is **Merthyr Tudful a Rhymni**.

13.3 The existing Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney constituency does not meet the statutory requirements in respect of the size of electorate. It is therefore necessary to include in the proposed new constituency a significant number of additional electors from the surrounding constituencies. The electoral wards in the north of the existing Caerphilly constituency (and Aberbargoed from the existing Islwyn constituency) were considered suitable as they are connected to the Rhymney valley and Merthyr Tydfil via the A469 and A472 roads and are a natural continuation of the valleys in this area. The Commission believes that these electoral wards would provide a natural extension to the existing constituency and are more appropriate than linking with areas to the north in Powys or across the valleys to the east or west.

13.4 The Commission considered various names for the proposed constituency but as the additional electoral wards to be included all have strong connections to the Rhymney Valley the Commission decided to continue using the existing constituency name.

13.5 The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituencies can be found at the following pages: **Caerphilly** (page 43) and **Islwyn** (pages 39 and 43).

2018 REVIEW INITIAL PROPOSALS REPORT
Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney (Merthyr Tudful a Rhymni)



14. Caerphilly (Caerffili)

14.1 It is proposed that a county constituency is created from:

1. The electoral wards within the existing **Caerphilly** CC and County Borough of Caerphilly of Aber Valley (4,478), Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen (7,456), Llanbradach (3,133), Morgan Jones (5,153), Penyrheol (8,525), St. James (4,126), and St. Martins (6,203);
2. the electoral wards within the existing **Islwyn** CC and County Borough of Caerphilly of Abercarn (3,884), Crosskeys (2,344), Maesycwmmmer (1,607), Pontllanfraith (5,976), Risca East (4,468), Risca West (3,795), and Ynysddu (2,709); and,
3. the electoral wards within the existing **Newport West** CC and City and County of Newport of Graig (4,723), and Rogerstone (7,743).

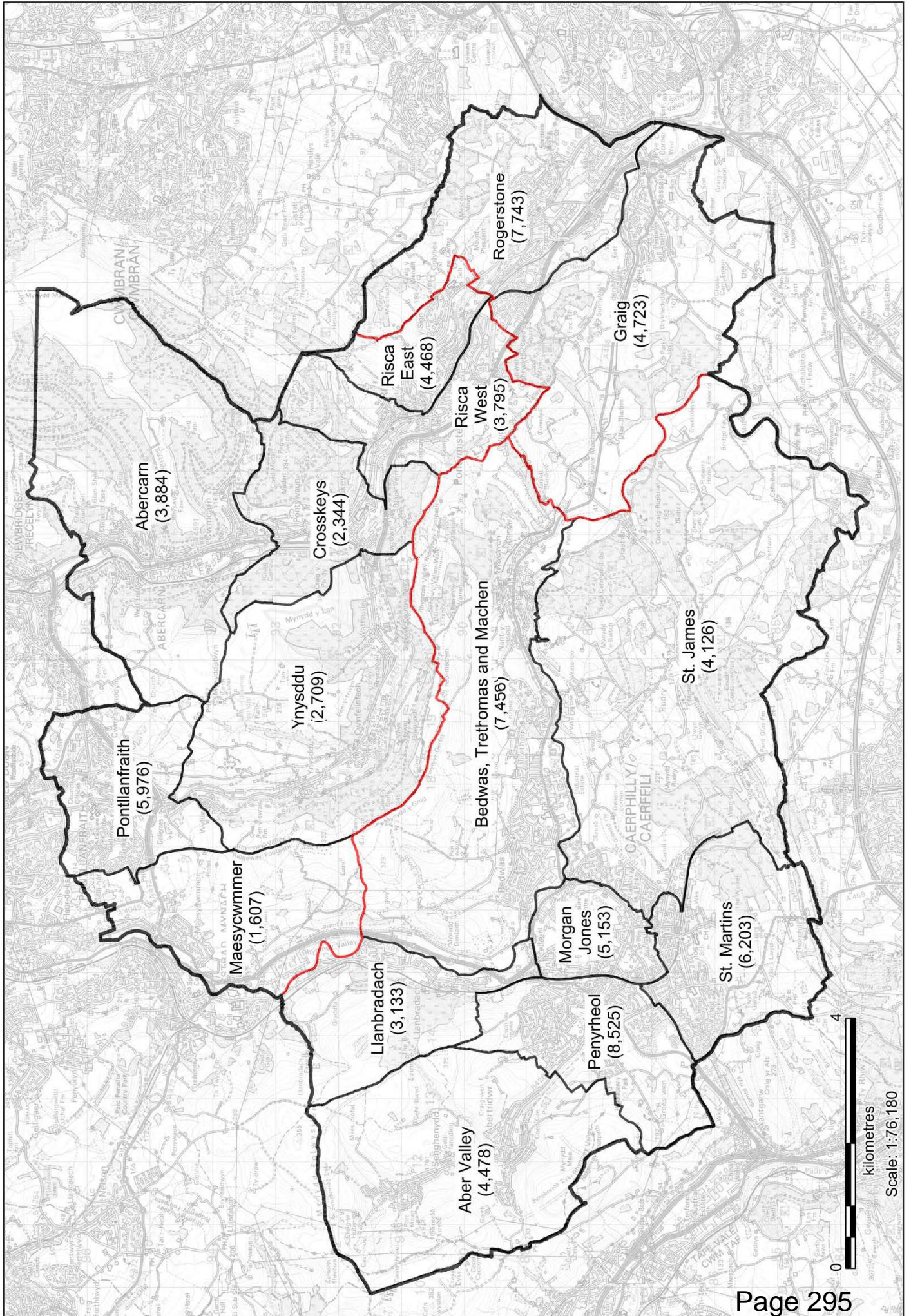
14.2 This constituency would have 76,323 electors which is 2.1% above the UKEQ of 74,769 electors per constituency. The suggested name for the constituency is **Caerphilly**. The suggested alternative name is **Caerffili**.

14.3 The electoral wards of the existing constituency of Caerphilly not included in proposals for 'Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney' do not meet the statutory requirements in respect of the size of electorate. It is therefore necessary to include in the proposed new constituency a significant number of additional electors from the surrounding constituencies. The electoral wards to the south of the existing Islwyn constituency are all within the principal council of Caerphilly and would be appropriate wards to combine with those of Caerphilly. However, these additions would still not attain the required electorate to satisfy the statutory requirements. It was considered that including the two wards of Graig and Rogerstone in the north east of the existing Newport West constituency would allow the proposal to meet the statutory range. These two wards are on the northern side of the M4 motorway and fit in with this proposed constituency, building on existing local ties and using many of the good communication links throughout the area.

14.4 As the town and the majority of wards in the proposed constituency are in the County Borough of Caerphilly, the Commission decided to continue to use that name as the proposed constituency name.

14.5 The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituencies can be found at the following pages: **Caerphilly** (page 41), **Islwyn** (page 39 and 41) and **Newport West** (pages 35 and 37).

Caerphilly (Caerffili)



15. Cynon Valley and Pontypridd (Cwm Cynon a Phontypridd)

15.1 It is proposed that a county constituency is created from:

1. the whole of the existing **Cynon Valley** CC and County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf electoral wards of Aberaman North (3,571), Aberaman South (3,261), Abercynon (4,288), Aberdare East (4,772), Aberdare West/Llwydcoed (7,036), Cilfynydd (1,998), Cwmbach (3,467), Glyncoch (2,039), Hirwaun (3,076), Mountain Ash East (2,086), Mountain Ash West (3,046), Penrhiwceiber (4,013), Pen-y-waun (1,993), Rhigos (1,337) and Ynysybwl (3,422); and,
2. the electoral wards within the existing **Pontypridd** CC and County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf of Church Village (3,469), Graig (1,455), Hawthorn (2,869), Llantwit Fardre (4,593), Pontypridd Town (2,141), Rhondda (3,364), Rhydfelen Central/Ilan (2,924), Ton-Teg (3,170), Trallwng (2,770) and Treforest (1,845).

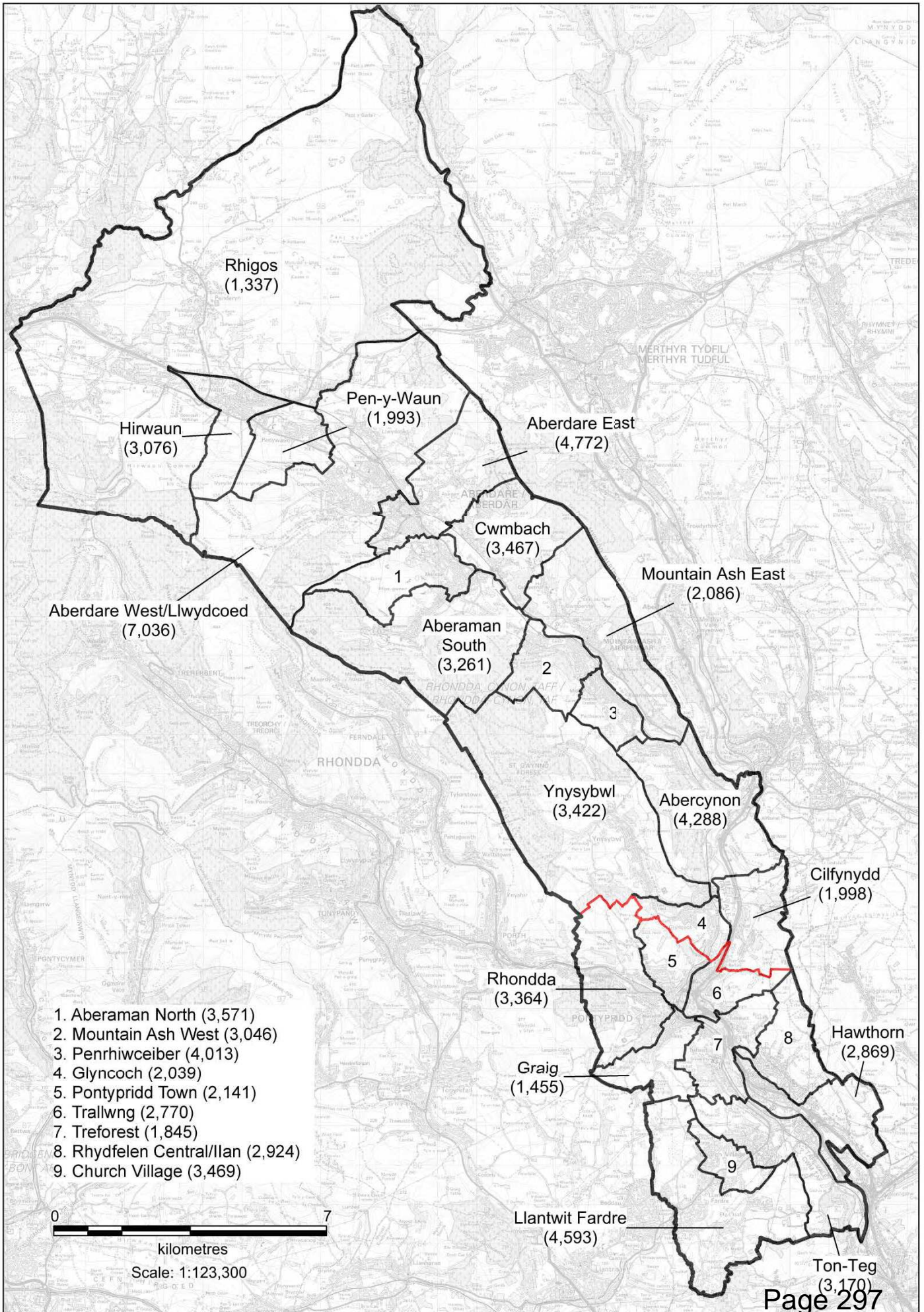
15.2 This constituency would have 78,005 electors which is 4.3% above the UKEQ of 74,769 electors per constituency. The suggested name for the constituency is **Cynon Valley and Pontypridd**. The suggested alternative name is **Cwm Cynon a Phontypridd**.

15.3 The existing Cynon Valley constituency does not meet the statutory requirements in respect of size of electorate. It is therefore necessary to include in the proposed new constituency a significant number of additional electors from the surrounding constituencies. The eastern electoral wards of the existing Pontypridd constituency are connected to the Cynon Valley via the A470 and A4059 and are a natural continuation of the valleys in this area. The Commission considers that these wards would provide a suitable addition to the proposed constituency in the Cynon Valley and are more appropriate than linking with areas in Powys to the north or across the valleys to either the east or west.

15.4 The proposed constituency would retain the existing Cynon Valley constituency and would then extend south to Pontypridd and the other surrounding electoral wards. The Commission considers that the proposed name would reflect the existing Cynon Valley constituency as well as represent the area that has been combined to achieve the statutory range.

15.5 The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing **Pontypridd** can be found at pages 47 and 51.

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Cynon Valley and Pontypridd (Cwm Cynon a Phontypridd)



16. Rhondda and Llantrisant (Rhondda a Llantrisant)

16.1 It is proposed that a county constituency is created from:

1. The whole of the existing **Rhondda** CC consisting of the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf electoral wards of Cwm Clydach (1,975), Cymmer (3,905), Ferndale (3,040), Llwyn-y-pia (1,644), Maerdy (2,244), Pentre (3,722), Pen-y-graig (3,879), Porth (4,280), Tonypandy (2,618), Trealaw (2,803), Treherbert (4,035), Treorchy (5,545), Tylorstown (2,895), Ynyshir (2,372) and Ystrad (4,204); and,
2. the electoral wards within the existing **Pontypridd** CC and County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf of Beddau (3,090), Llantrisant Town (3,590), Pont-y-clun (5,888), Talbot Green (1,936), Tonyrefail East (4,215), Tonyrefail West (4,620) and Tyn-y-nant (2,465).

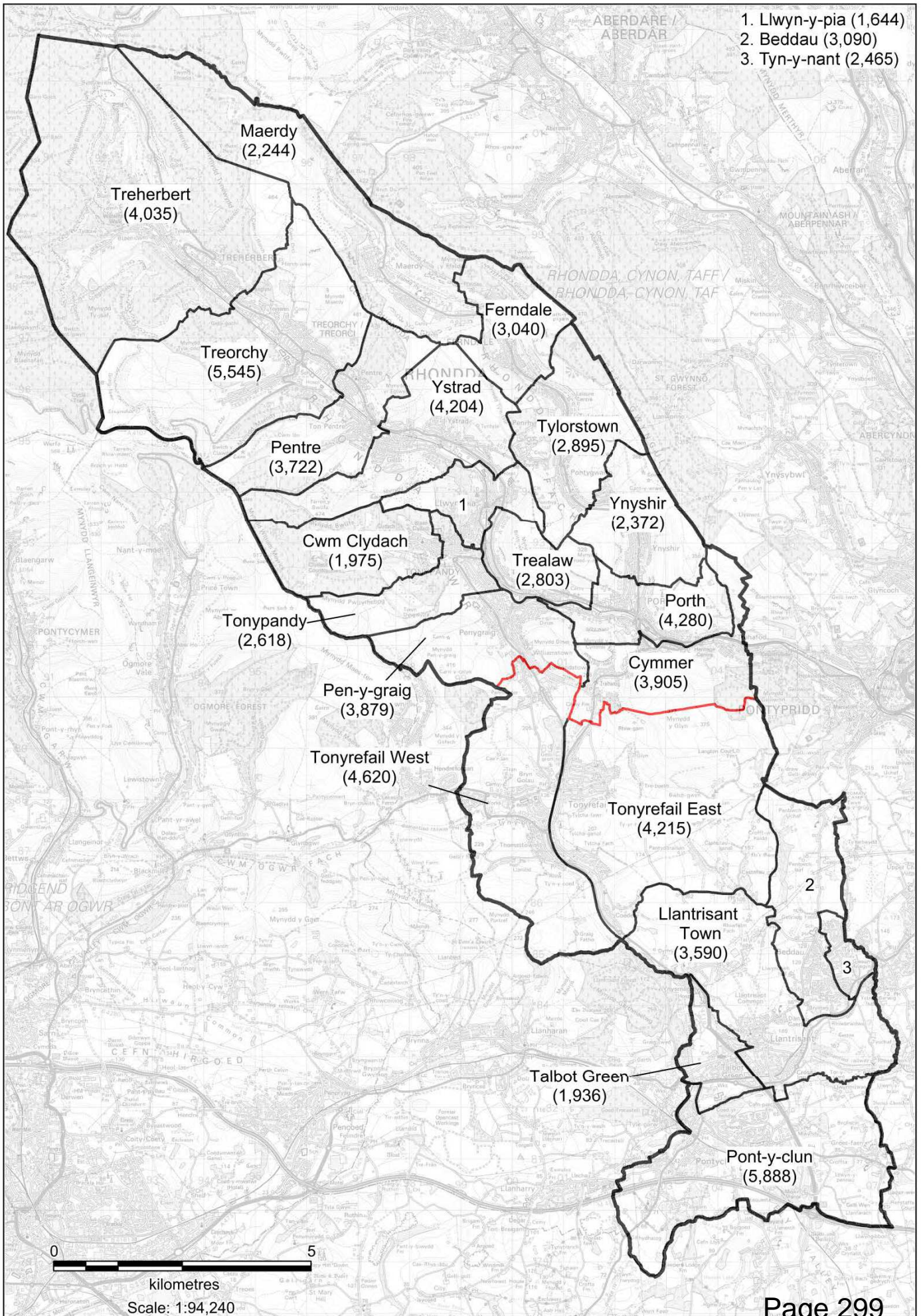
16.2 This constituency would have 74,965 electors which is 0.3% below the UKEQ of 74,769 electors per constituency. The suggested name for the constituency is **Rhondda and Llantrisant**. The suggested alternative name is **Rhondda a Llantrisant**.

16.3 The existing Rhondda constituency does not meet the statutory requirements in respect of size of electorate. It is therefore necessary to include in the proposed new constituency a significant number of additional electors from the surrounding constituencies. The western electoral wards of the existing Pontypridd constituency are connected to the Rhondda via the A4119, and are a natural continuation of the valleys in this area being of the same character and demographic. The Commission considers that these wards would provide a suitable addition to the existing constituency of Rhondda and are more appropriate than linking with areas to the north in Powys or across the valleys to the east or west.

16.4 The proposed constituency would retain the existing Rhondda constituency and extend southwest to Llantrisant and its other surrounding electoral wards. The Commission considers that the proposed name would reflect the existing Rhondda constituency as well as represent the area that has been combined to achieve the statutory range.

16.5 The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing **Pontypridd** can be found at pages 45 and 51.

Rhondda and Llantrisant (Rhondda a Llantrisant)



1. Llwyn-y-pia (1,644)
2. Beddau (3,090)
3. Tyn-y-nant (2,465)

17. Cardiff West (Gorllewin Caerdydd)

17.1 It is proposed a borough constituency is created from:

1. The whole of the existing **Cardiff West** BC consisting of the City and County of Cardiff electoral wards of Caerau (7,480), Canton (10,371), Creigiau/St. Fagans (3,888), Ely (9,449), Fairwater (9,338), Llandaff (6,828), Pentyrch (2,752), Radyr (5,146) and Riverside (8,640); and,
2. the electoral ward within the existing **Cardiff South and Penarth** BC and City and County of Cardiff of Grangetown (11,671).

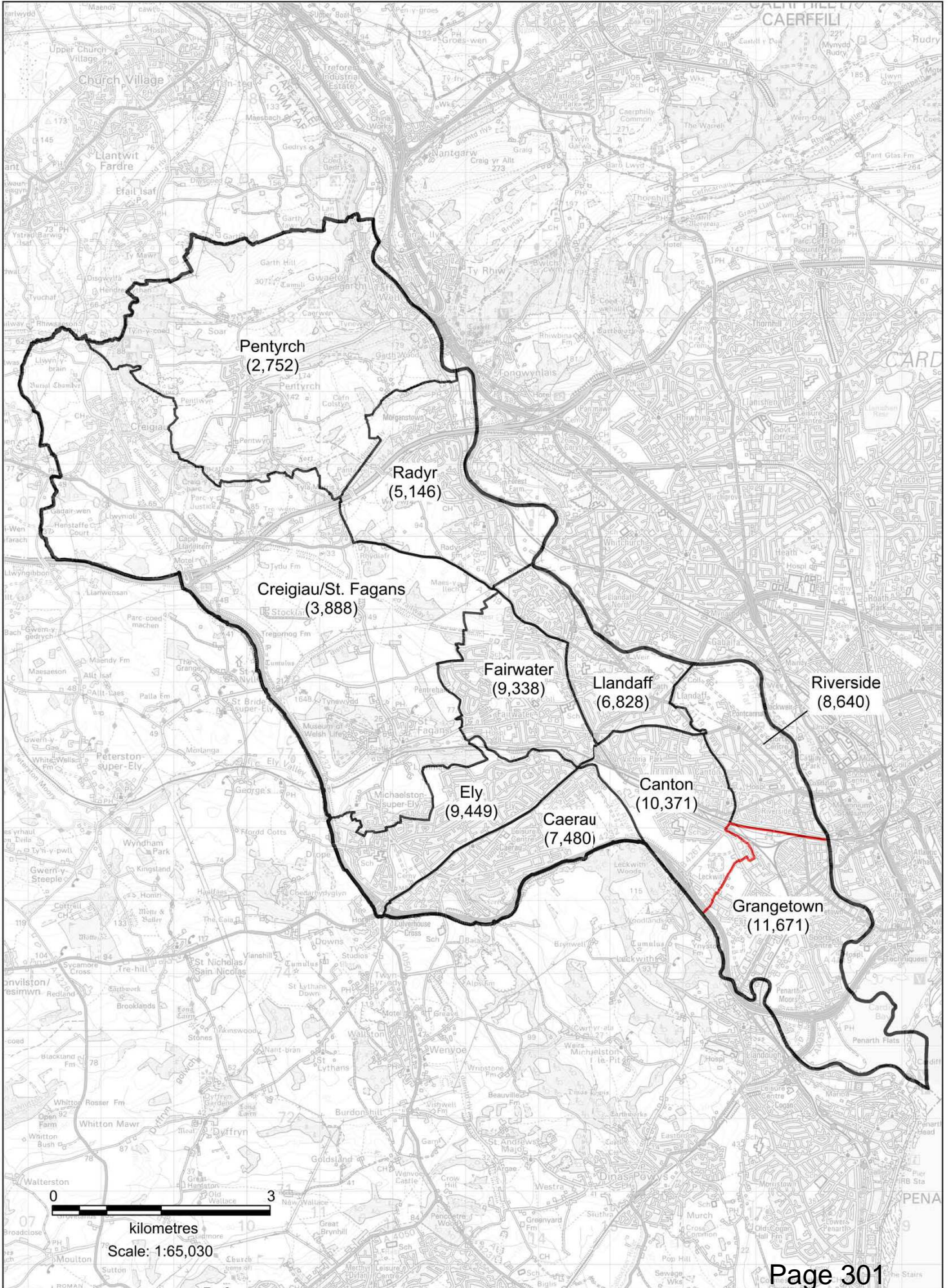
17.2 This constituency would have 75,563 electors which is 1.1% above the UKEQ of 74,769 electors per constituency. The suggested name for the constituency is **Cardiff West**. The suggested alternative name is **Gorllewin Caerdydd**.

17.3 In order to obtain the required number of electors to satisfy the statutory electorate range, the Commission proposes the addition of one electoral ward to the existing constituency of Cardiff West. The Commission considers that Grangetown is the most appropriate electoral ward to add to the constituency being also part of the City and County of Cardiff and of the same character. It has good links to the neighbouring electoral wards and will create a constituency in Cardiff which wholly lies to the south and west of the River Taff. The proposal would make for a cohesive constituency.

17.4 As the existing Cardiff West constituency is included in this proposal and the electoral ward of Grangetown is also west of the River Taff the Commission considered it appropriate to continue using the name Cardiff West.

17.5 The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing **Cardiff South and Penarth** can be found at pages 53 and 55.

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Cardiff West (Gorllewin Caerdydd)



18. Cardiff North (Gogledd Caerdydd)

18.1 It is proposed that a borough constituency is created from:

1. The electoral wards within the existing **Cardiff Central** BC and City and County of Cardiff of Cyncoed (8,139) and Pentwyn (10,435);
2. the electoral wards within the existing **Cardiff North** BC and City and County of Cardiff of Gabalfa (4,045), Heath (9,326), Lisvane (2,871), Llandaff North (5,722), Llanishen (12,916), Rhiwbina (9,129) and Whitchurch and Tongwynlais (12,673); and,
3. the electoral ward within the existing **Pontypridd** CC and County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf of Taffs Well (2,758).

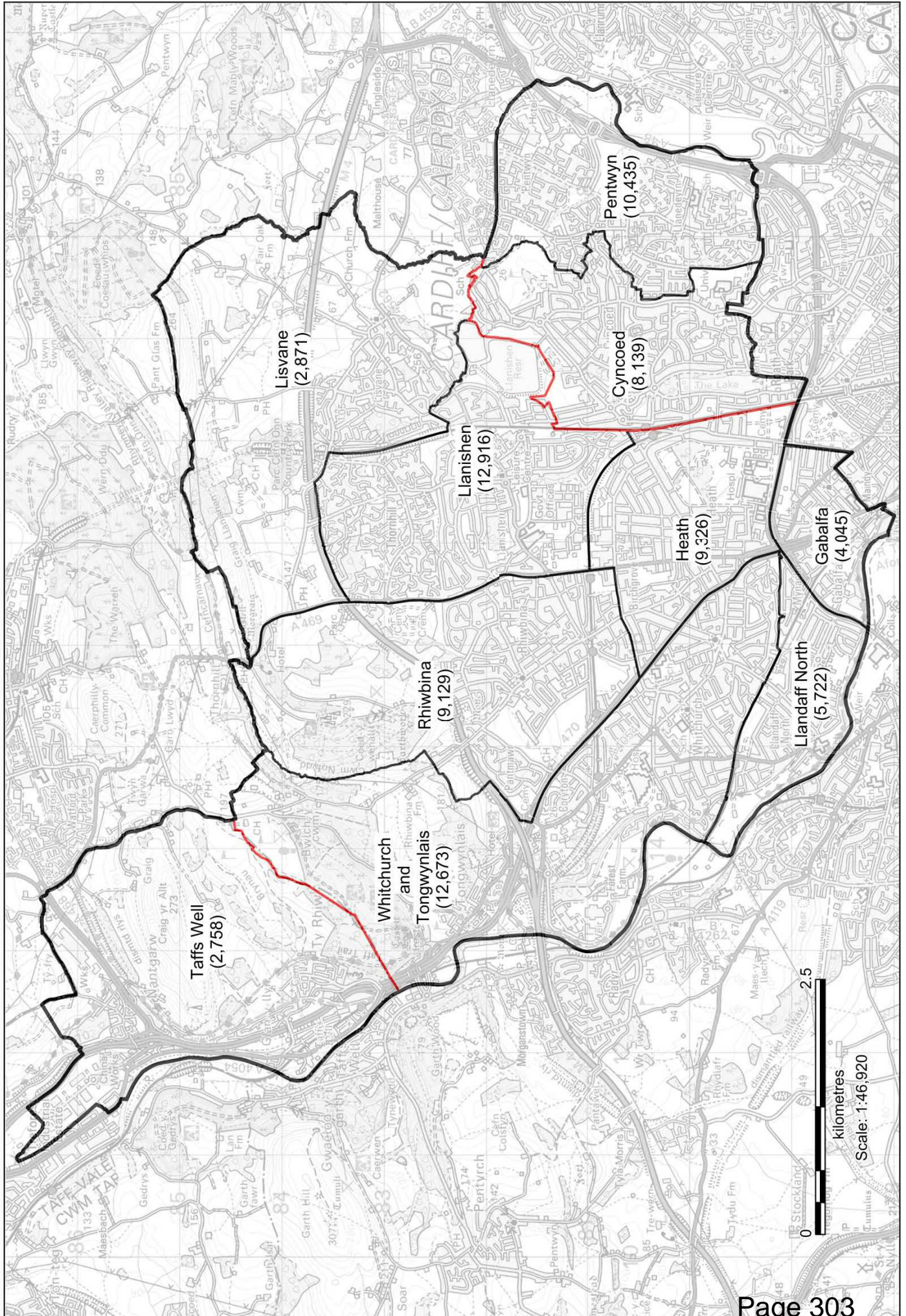
18.2 This constituency would have 78,014 electors which is 4.3% above the UKEQ of 74,769 electors per constituency. The suggested name for the constituency is **Cardiff North**. The alternative name is **Gogledd Caerdydd**.

18.3 The Commission considers that those electoral wards which are currently parts of the existing constituencies of Cardiff North and Cardiff Central make an appropriate match when included in this proposed constituency. However, these wards alone do not provide enough electors to form a constituency within the statutory electorate range so the Commission proposes to include a further electoral ward from the existing Pontypridd constituency, Taffs Well, which is immediately adjacent to the Cardiff ward of Whitchurch and Tongwynlais and which has good communication links to the north of Cardiff via both the A470 trunk road and Valleys rail line.

18.4 The proposed constituency comprises of a large number of electoral wards of the existing Cardiff North, and Taffs Well which is to the north of that constituency. The Commission considers that Cardiff North would still be an appropriate name for this new constituency.

18.5 The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituencies can be found at the following pages: **Cardiff Central** (page 53), **Cardiff North** (page 53) and **Pontypridd** (pages 45 and 47).

Cardiff North (Gogledd Caerdydd)



19. Cardiff South and East (De a Dwyrain Caerdydd)

19.1 It is proposed that a borough constituency is created from:

1. The electoral wards within the existing **Cardiff Central BC** and City and County of Cardiff of Adamsdown (5,044), Cathays (7,176), Penylan (9,188), and Plasnewydd (9,421);
2. the electoral ward within the existing **Cardiff North BC** and City and County of Cardiff of Pontprennau/Old St Mellons (6,976); and,
3. the electoral wards within the existing **Cardiff South and Penarth BC** and City and County of Cardiff of Butetown (6,524), Llanrumney (7,387), Rumney (6,304), Splott (8,454) and Trowbridge (10,585).

19.2 This constituency would have 77,059 electors which is 3.1% above the UKEQ of 74,769 electors per constituency. The suggested name for the constituency is **Cardiff South and East**. The suggested alternative name is **De a Dwyrain Caerdydd**.

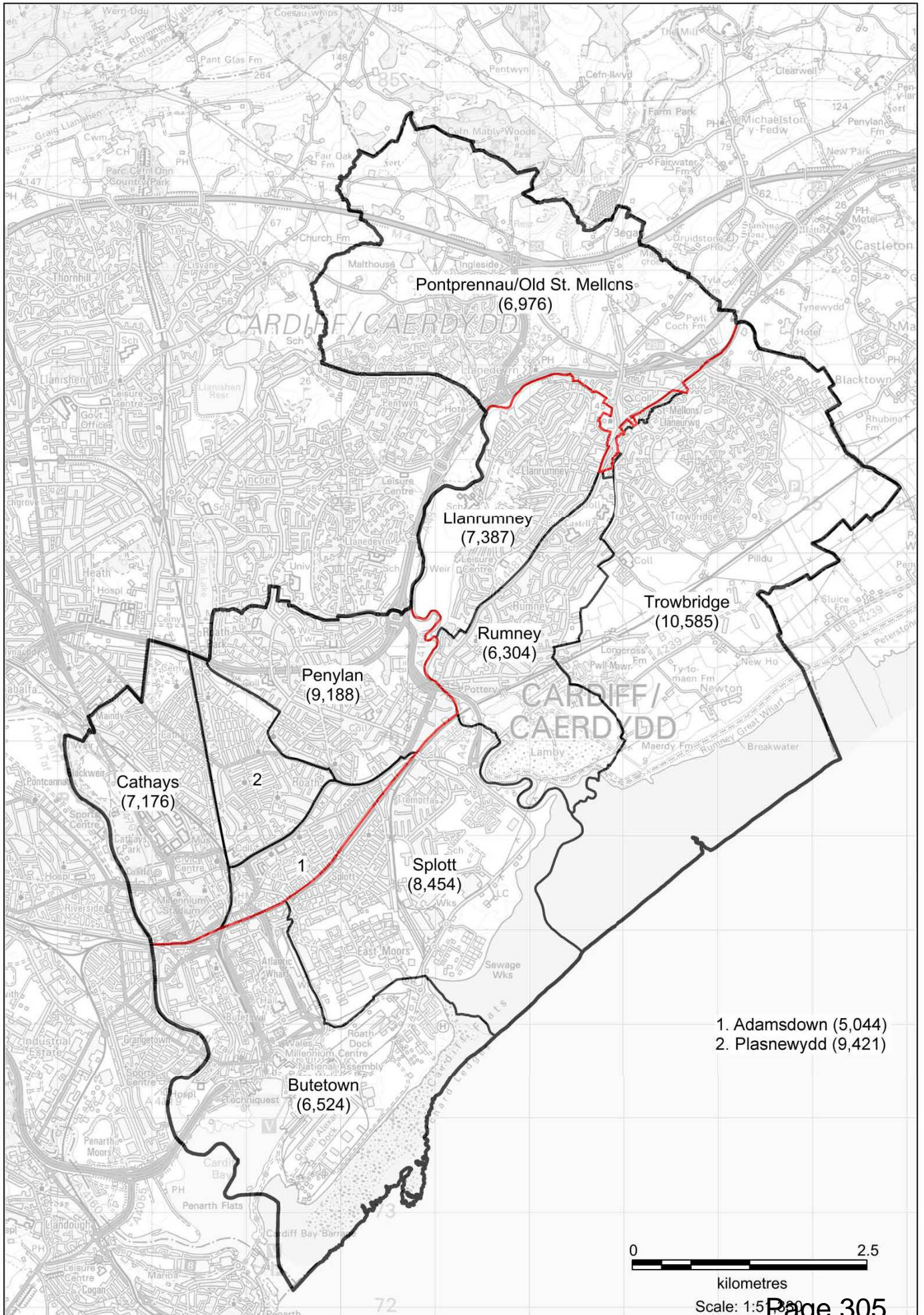
19.3 The Commission proposes to create a new constituency from parts of the existing Cardiff Central, Cardiff North, and Cardiff South and Penarth constituencies. This was considered appropriate to achieve the statutory range as all of these electoral wards forming the cohesive proposal are contained in the City and County of Cardiff principal council, are similar in demography and are of the same well-connected character.

19.4 Although this is a significant departure from the existing constituencies in this part of Cardiff, the Commission considers that it provides an appropriate arrangement both for this constituency and those in the surrounding area.

19.5 The name the Commission has chosen reflects the geographical extent of the proposal, matching the names for the two other constituencies in Cardiff.

19.6 The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituencies can be found at the following pages: **Cardiff Central** (page 51), **Cardiff North** (page 51) and **Cardiff South and Penarth** (page 55).

Cardiff South and East (De a Dwyrain Caerdydd)



20. Vale of Glamorgan East (Dwyrain Bro Morgannwg)

20.1 It is proposed that a county constituency is created from:

1. The electoral wards within the existing **Cardiff South and Penarth** BC and County Borough of the Vale of Glamorgan of Cornerswell (3,885), Llandough (1,454), Plymouth (4,419), St. Augustine's (4,913), Stanwell (3,178) and Sully (3,531); and,
2. the electoral wards within the existing **Vale of Glamorgan** CC and County Borough of the Vale of Glamorgan of Baruc (4,636), Buttrills (4,175), Cadoc (6,842), Castleland (3,096), Court (3,031), Cowbridge (4,997), Dinas Powys (6,139), Dyfan (3,983), Gibbonsdown (3,646), Illyd (5,951), Peterston-super-Ely (1,828), Rhoose (5,158), and Wenvoe (2,122).

20.2 This constituency would have 76,984 electors which is 3% above the UKEQ of 74,769 electors per constituency. The suggested name for the constituency is **Vale of Glamorgan East**. The alternative name is **Dwyrain Bro Morgannwg**.

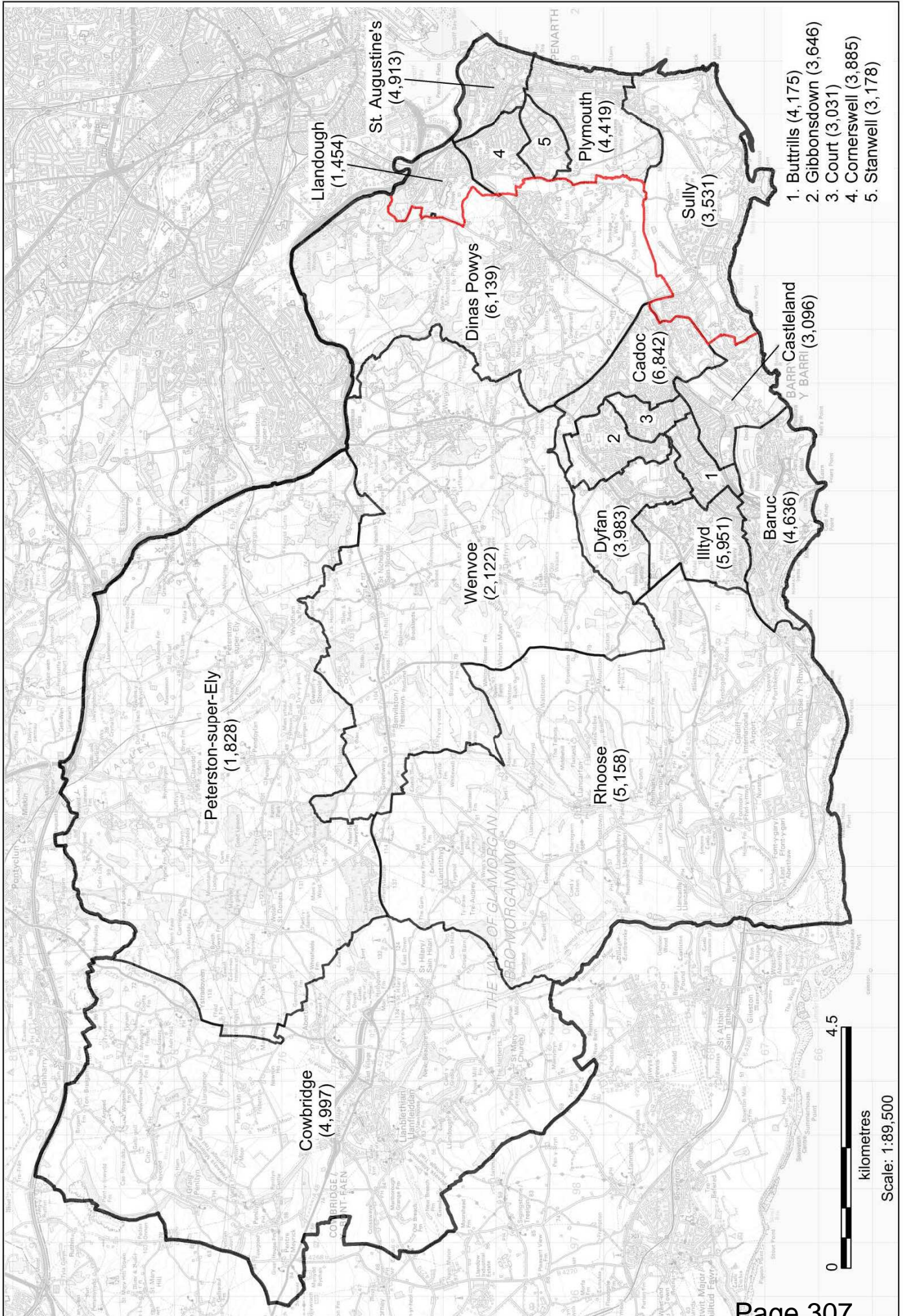
20.3 The existing Vale of Glamorgan constituency is a constituency in Wales whose existing electorate is close to the statutory range. However, in order to create constituencies in South Wales which are cohesive and retain, as far as is practicable, constituencies that do not cross principal council boundaries where they do not at present, or create constituencies with significant geographical features which would ordinarily be considered a barrier to creating a constituency, the Commission is proposing to split the Vale of Glamorgan. Although this arrangement would see the existing Vale of Glamorgan constituency split in two, this proposed constituency would comprise electoral wards which are all part of the Vale of Glamorgan principal council.

20.4 The Commission considers that the advantages of the proposed constituency would outweigh the benefits of retaining the existing Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff South and Penarth constituencies. One of the main reasons for this is that the proposed constituencies of Cardiff will now be retained within the principal authority of Cardiff. This, in turn, allows the formation of other constituencies in the South Wales Valleys to run in a natural north-south direction, as opposed to creating constituencies which run east-to-west, crossing the valleys. This proposed arrangement would also see the three main population centres of the Vale of Glamorgan retained within the eastern split of the existing Vale of Glamorgan.

20.5 The proposal would see the Vale of Glamorgan split in two with the electoral wards to the east of the split combined as one constituency and therefore the Commission considers that this name is an appropriate suggestion to reflect that.

20.6 The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing **Cardiff South and Penarth** and **Vale of Glamorgan** can be found at pages 53 and 57, respectively.

Vale of Glamorgan East (Dwyrain Bro Morgannwg)



1. Buttrills (4,175)
2. Gibbonsdown (3,646)
3. Court (3,031)
4. Cornerswell (3,885)
5. Stanwell (3,178)

21. Bridgend and Vale of Glamorgan West (Pen-y-bont a Gorllewin Bro Morgannwg)

21.1 It is proposed that a county constituency is created from:

1. The whole of the existing **Bridgend** CC consisting of the County Borough of Bridgend electoral wards of Brackla (7,934), Bryntirion, Laleston and Merthyr Mawr (6,305), Cefn Glas (1,237), Coity (1,708), Cornelly (5,101), Coychurch Lower (1,131), Litchard (1,715), Llangewydd and Brynhyfryd (1,831), Morfa (3,080), Newcastle (4,010), Newton (2,901), Nottage (2,750), Oldcastle (3,530), Pendre (1,321), Pen-y-fai (1,828), Porthcawl East Central (2,518), Porthcawl West Central (2,775), Pyle (5,331) and Rest Bay (1,926); and,
2. the electoral wards within the existing **Vale of Glamorgan CC** and County Borough of the Vale of Glamorgan of Llandow/Ewenny (2,061), Llantwit Major (7,502), St. Athan (2,412) and St. Bride's Major (2,097).

21.2 This constituency would have 73,004 electors which is 2.4% below the UKEQ of 74,769 electors per constituency. The suggested name for the constituency is **Bridgend and Vale of Glamorgan West**. The suggested alternative name is **Pen-y-bont a Gorllewin Bro Morgannwg**.

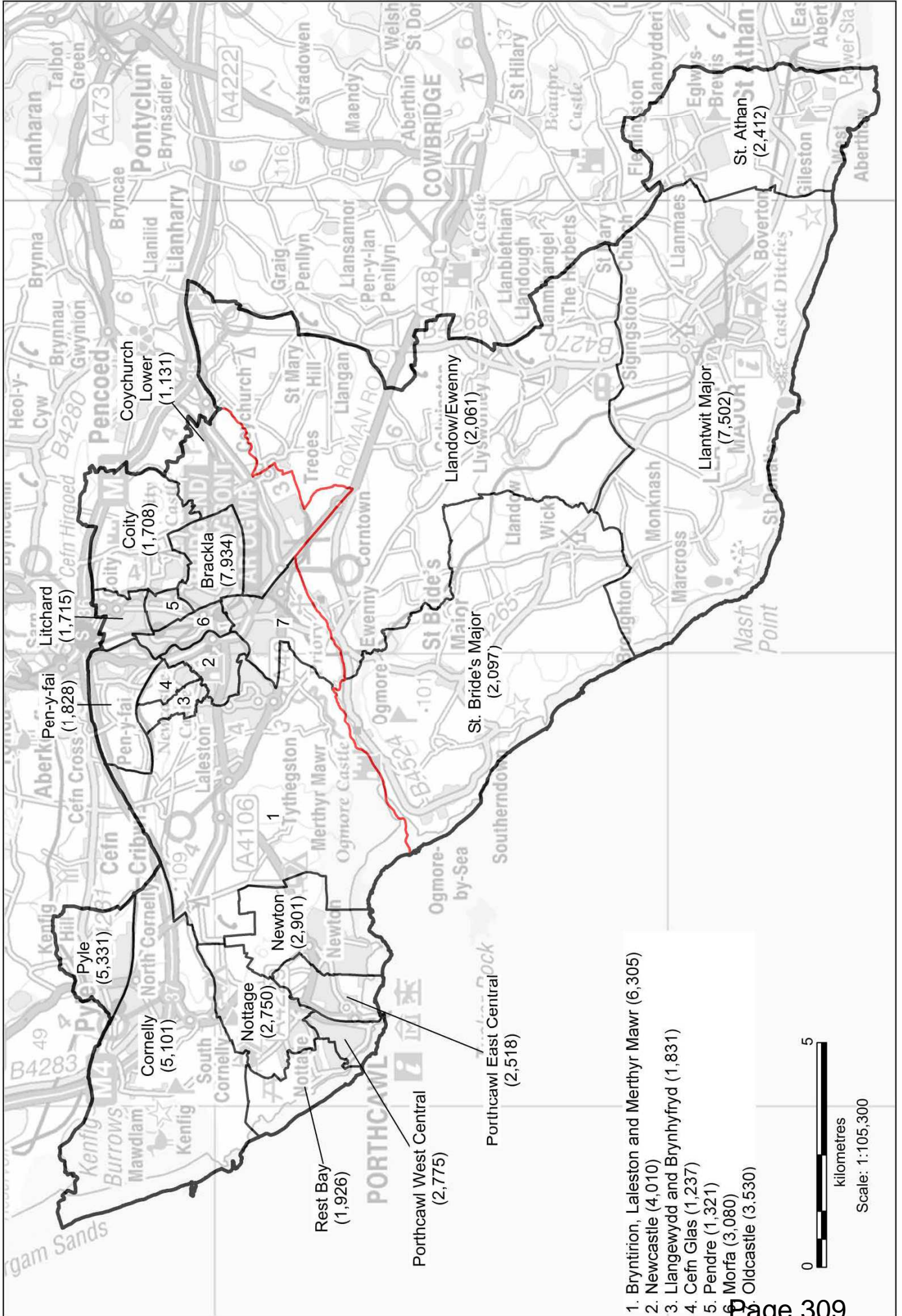
21.3 The existing Bridgend constituency does not meet the statutory requirements in respect of size of electorate. It is therefore necessary to include in the proposed new constituency a significant number of additional electors from the surrounding constituencies. The existing Bridgend constituency contains the main town area of Bridgend as well as the tourist resort of Porthcawl. The western Vale also has a similar tourism-based element and so the Commission therefore proposes to combine Bridgend with the west of the Vale of Glamorgan to attain the statutory range.

21.4 As noted above, the Commission considers that the advantages of the proposed constituency would outweigh the benefits of retaining the existing Vale of Glamorgan constituency. One of the main reasons for this is that the proposed constituencies of Cardiff will now be retained within the principal authority of Cardiff. This, in turn, allows the formation of other constituencies in the South Wales Valleys to run in a natural north-south direction, as opposed to creating constituencies which run east-to-west, crossing the valleys.

21.5 As the whole of the existing Bridgend constituency is included in the proposal the Commission considered it appropriate to retain that name and add that part of the Vale of Glamorgan to the west of the county to the suggested name.

21.6 The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing **Vale of Glamorgan** constituency can be found at page 55.

Bridgend and Vale of Glamorgan West (Pen-y-bont a Gorllewin Bro Morgannwg)



1. Bryntirion, Laleston and Merthyr Mawr (6,305)
2. Newcastle (4,010)
3. Langwydd and Brynhyfryd (1,831)
4. Cefn Glas (1,237)
5. Pendre (1,321)
6. Morfa (3,080)
7. Oldcastle (3,530)



22. Ogmore and Port Talbot (Ogwr a Phort Talbot)

22.1 It is proposed that a county constituency is created from:

1. The whole of the existing **Ogmore** CC consisting of:
 - i. The County Borough of Bridgend electoral wards of Aberkenfig (1,692), Bettws (1,536), Blackmill (1,870), Blaengarw (1,260), Bryncethin (995), Bryncoch (1,652), Caerau (4,593), Cefn Cribwr (1,088), Felindre (2,046), Hendre (2,985), Llangeinor (846), Llangynwyd (2,330), Maesteg East (3,536), Maesteg West (4,185), Nant-y-moel (1,657), Ogmore Vale (2,193), Penprysg (2,337), Pontycymmer (1,648), Sarn (1,748) and Ynysawdre (2,555); and,
 - ii. the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf electoral wards of Brynna (3,264), Gilfach Goch (2,411) Llanharan (2,610) and Llanharry (2,940); and,
2. the electoral wards within the existing **Aberavon** CC and County Borough of Neath Port Talbot of Bryn and Cwmavon (5,018), Cymmer (2,015), Glyncorwg (792), Gwynfi (895), Margam (2,197), Port Talbot (4,052), and Tai-bach (3,557).

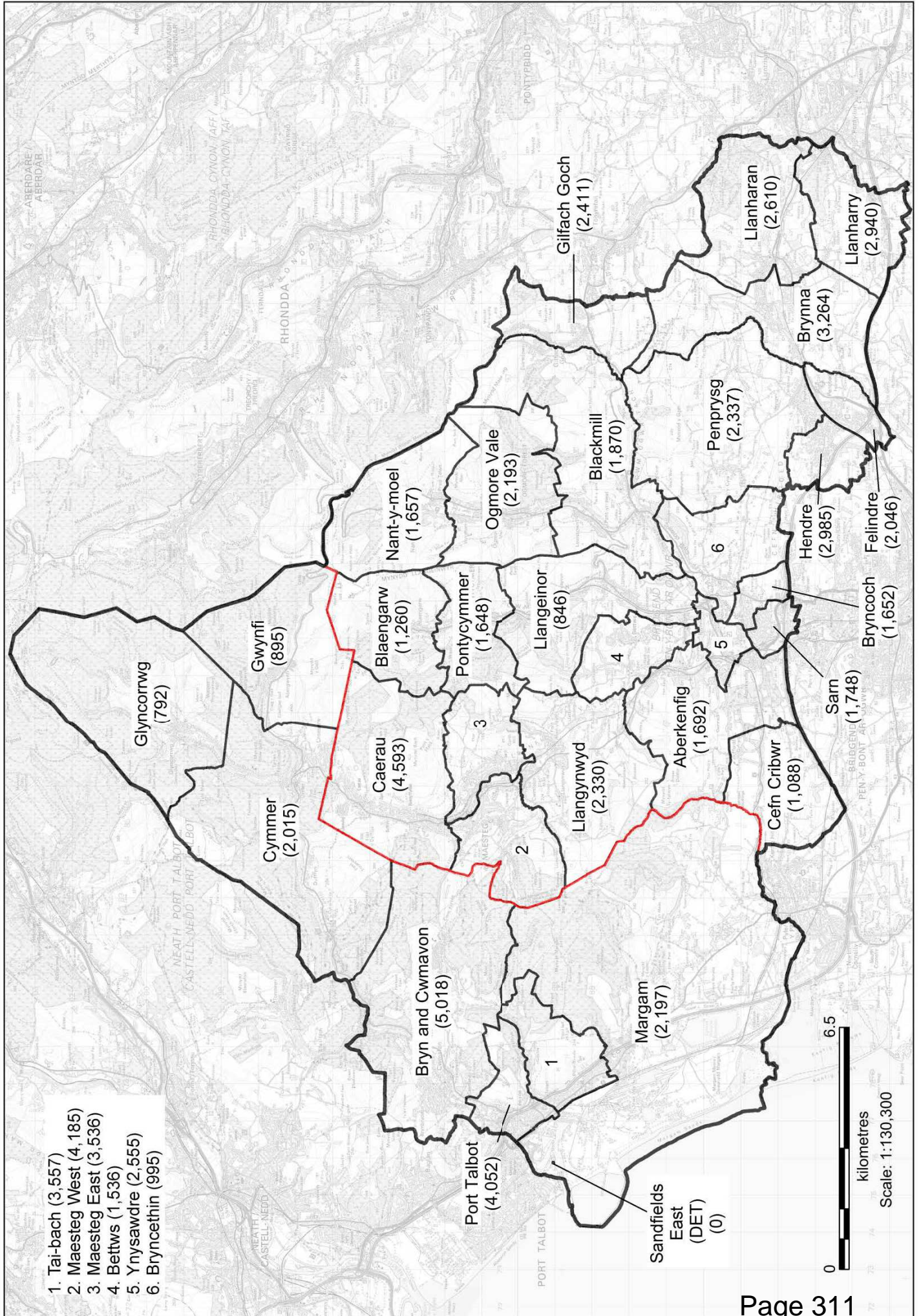
22.2 This constituency would have 72,503 electors which is 3% below the UKEQ of 74,769 electors per constituency. The suggested name for the constituency is **Ogmore and Port Talbot**. The suggested alternative name is **Ogwr a Phort Talbot**.

22.3 The existing constituency of Ogmore would require a significant number of additional electors to form a constituency within the statutory range. The Commission considered several options and decided that it was most appropriate to combine the Ogmore constituency with the eastern electoral wards of the existing Aberavon constituency. This seemed an appropriate combination as the existing Bridgend constituency would form a sensible constituency with the western Vale of Glamorgan and other electoral wards of the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough, enabling both areas to form cohesive constituencies.

22.4 The proposed constituency would retain the existing Ogmore constituency and would then extend to the west to Port Talbot and its surrounding electoral wards. The Commission considers that the proposed name would reflect the existing Ogmore constituency as well as including the area that has been combined to achieve the statutory range.

22.5 The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing **Aberavon** can be found at page 61 and 63.

Ogmore and Port Talbot (Ogwr a Phort Talbot)



Scale: 1:130,300

23. Neath and Aberavon (Castell-nedd ac Aberafon)

23.1 It is proposed that a county constituency is created from:

1. The electoral wards within the existing **Aberavon CC** and County Borough of Neath Port Talbot of Aberavon (3,887), Baglan (5,128), Briton Ferry East (2,119), Briton Ferry West (1,977), Sandfields East (4,850) and Sandfields West (4,745); and,
2. the whole of the existing **Neath CC** consisting of the County Borough of Neath Port Talbot electoral wards of Aberdulais (1,662), Allt-wen (1,903), Blaengwrach (1,458), Bryn-coch North (1,762), Bryn-coch South (4,409), Cadoxton (1,353), Cimla (3,043), Crynant (1,500), Cwmllynfell (894), Dyffryn (2,354), Glynneath (2,578), Godre'r graig (1,452), Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen (2,171), Lower Brynamman (1,014), Neath East (4,298), Neath North (2,872), Neath South (3,513), Onllwyn (900), Pelenna (863), Pontardawe (3,936), Resolven (2,323), Rhos (1,940), Seven Sisters (1,527), Tonna (1,885), Trebanos (1,016) and Ystalyfera (2,065).

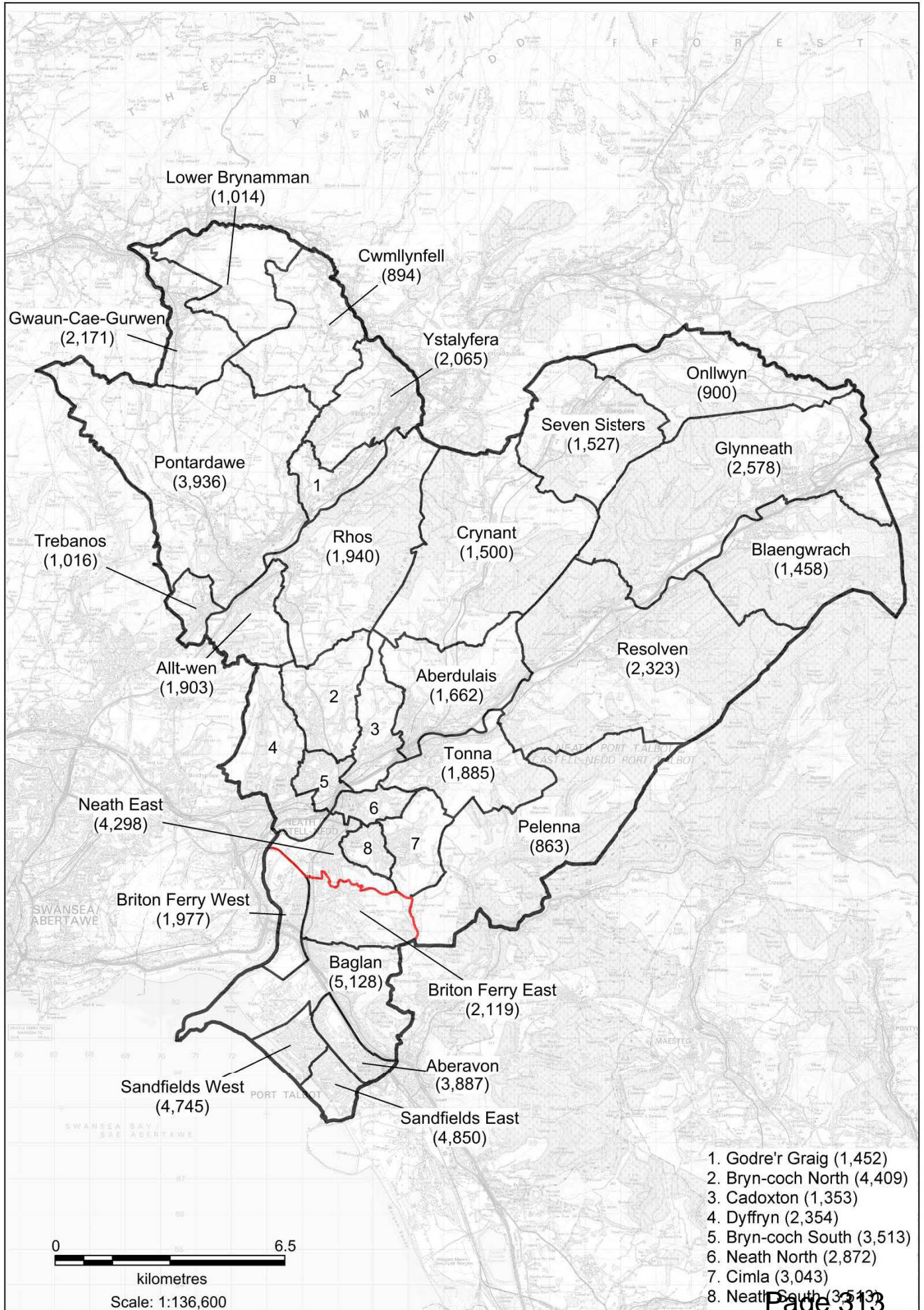
23.2 This constituency would have 77,397 electors which is 3.5% above the UKEQ of 74,769 electors per constituency. The suggested name for the constituency is **Neath and Aberavon**. The suggested alternative name is **Castell-nedd ac Aberafon**.

23.3 The existing Neath constituency does not meet the statutory requirements in respect of size of electorate. It is therefore necessary to include in the proposed new constituency a significant number of additional electors from the surrounding constituencies. The Commission considers the inclusion of the electoral wards in the existing Aberavon constituency including the areas of Aberavon, Baglan, Briton Ferry and Sandfields would be appropriate to attain the statutory range without crossing a principal council boundary. The areas are of a similar character and demography to those already included and, being part of the Neath Port Talbot urban area, are well-connected and form a cohesive constituency.

23.4 The proposal contains the whole of the existing Neath constituency along with the town of Aberavon which currently features in the name of a constituency. It was considered by the Commission appropriate to include both of these names in the proposed constituency.

23.5 The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing **Aberavon** can be found at pages 59 and 63.

Neath and Aberavon (Castell-nedd ac Aberafon)



1. Godre'r Graig (1,452)
2. Bryn-coch North (4,409)
3. Cadoxton (1,353)
4. Dyffryn (2,354)
5. Bryn-coch South (3,513)
6. Neath North (2,872)
7. Cimla (3,043)
8. Neath South (3,513)

24. Swansea East (Dwyrain Abertawe)

24.1 It is proposed that a borough constituency is created from:

1. The whole of the existing **Swansea East BC** and the City and County of Swansea electoral wards of Bonymaen (4,697), Cwmbwrla (5,337), Landore (4,472), Llansamlet (10,408), Morryston (11,532), Mynyddbach (6,429), Penderry (7,146) and St. Thomas (5,020);
2. the electoral wards within the existing **Aberavon CC** and County Borough of Neath Port Talbot of Coedffranc Central (2,733), Coedffranc North (1,752), and Coedffranc West (2,629);
3. the electoral ward within the existing **Gower CC** and City and County of Swansea of Clydach (5,525); and,
4. the electoral ward within the existing **Swansea West BC** and City and County of Swansea of Castle (8,834).

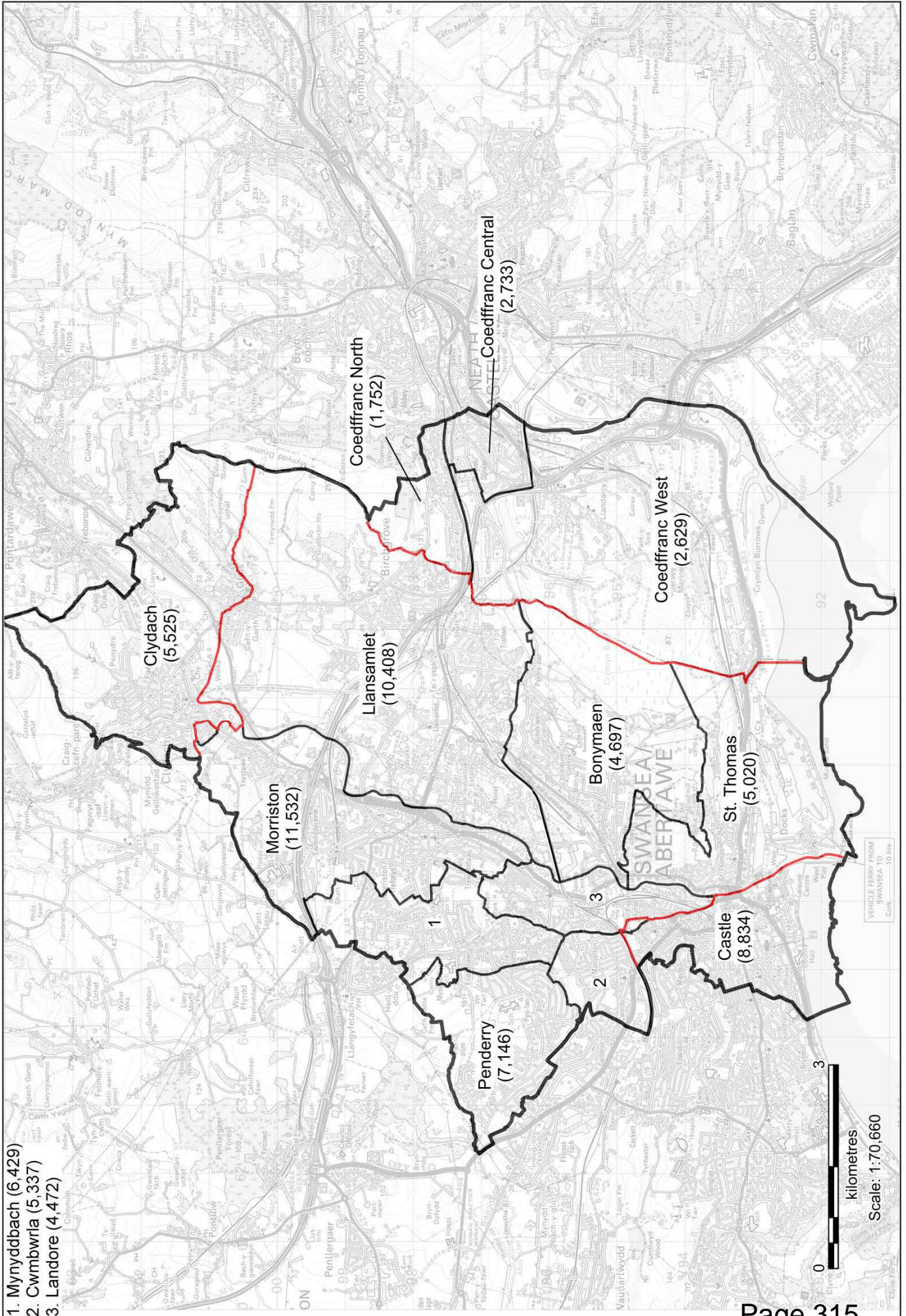
24.2 This constituency would have 76,514 electors which is 2.3% above the UKEQ of 74,769 electors per constituency. The suggested name for the constituency is **Swansea East**. The suggested alternative name is **Dwyrain Abertawe**.

24.3 The existing Swansea East constituency falls below the minimum of the statutory range. In order to form a constituency which would satisfy other criteria, both in this proposed constituency and in surrounding areas, there is a need to look at electoral wards from neighbouring constituencies. The Commission considered that the addition of the Castle and Clydach wards of the City of Swansea would be appropriate to form a cohesive constituency in a well-connected urban area with close community ties. Furthermore, the Commission considers that adding the three Coedffranc wards from Aberavon would be appropriate as it contains parts of the new campus for Swansea University contained within Swansea East. This proposed constituency is connected by extensive road and rail links.

24.4 The proposal contains the whole of the existing Swansea East constituency and will continue to reflect this even with the addition of the further wards. It was therefore considered appropriate to retain this name.

24.5 The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituencies can be found at the following pages: **Aberavon** (pages 59 and 61), **Gower** (pages 65 and 67) and **Swansea West** (page 65).

Swansea East (Dwyrain Abertawe)



- 1. Mynyddbach (6,429)
- 2. Cwmbwrla (5,337)
- 3. Landore (4,472)

25. Gower and Swansea West (Gŵyr a Gorllewin Abertawe)

25.1 It is proposed that a county constituency is created from:

1. The electoral wards within the existing **Gower CC** and City and County of Swansea of Bishopston (2,610), Fairwood (2,218), Gower (2,828), Gowerton (3,862), Kingsbridge (3,299), Lower Loughor (1,734), Newton (2,687), Oystermouth (3,151), Penclawdd (2,852), Pennard (2,175), Upper Loughor (2,092), and West Cross (5,023); and,
2. the electoral wards within the existing **Swansea West** BC and City and County of Swansea of Cockett (10,125) Dунvant (3,353) Killay North (1,892), Killay South (1,846), Mayals (2,060), Sketty (10,294), Townhill (5,617) and Uplands (8,155).

25.2 This constituency would have 77,873 electors which is 4.2% above the UKEQ of 74,769 electors per constituency. The suggested name for the constituency is **Gower and Swansea West**. The suggested alternative name is **Gŵyr a Gorllewin Abertawe**.

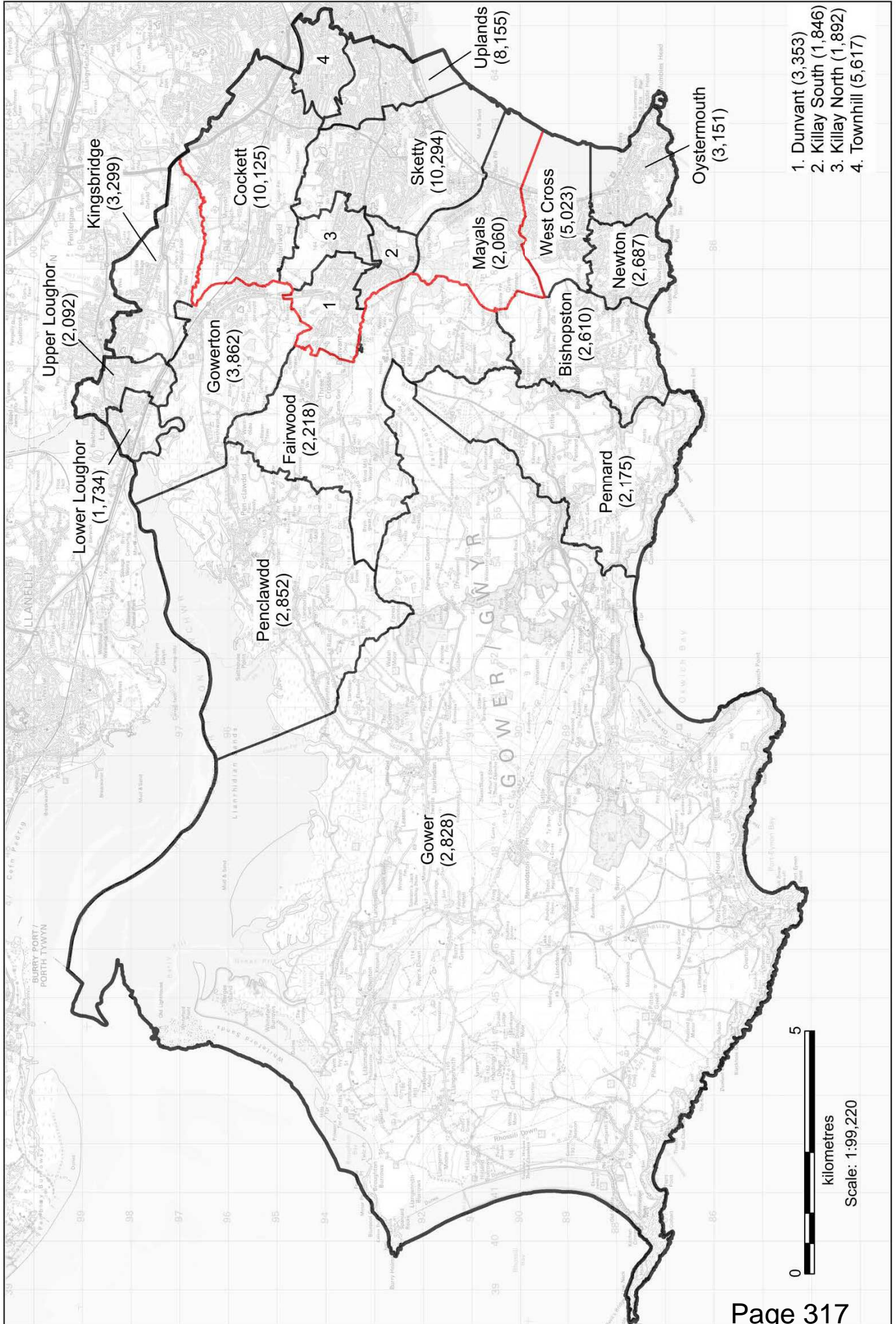
25.3 The existing Swansea West constituency does not meet the statutory requirements in respect of size of electorate. This is exacerbated by the transfer of the Castle ward to the proposal for 'Swansea East'. It is therefore necessary to include in the proposed new constituency a significant number of additional electors from the surrounding constituencies. The electoral wards to the south of the existing Gower constituency are well connected to Swansea West and are a natural continuation of a constituency in this area.

25.4 This new constituency has the advantage that it consists entirely of well-connected electoral wards which are all part of the City and County of Swansea principal council. This also eliminates the anomaly in the existing constituencies whereby the Community of Mumbles was divided with Newtown, Oystermouth and West Cross being in the Gower constituency and the electoral ward of Mayals being in Swansea West. This new proposal now brings the Community of Mumbles together within one cohesive constituency.

25.5 The majority of the existing Swansea West constituency is included in this proposed constituency and it extends out into the Gower peninsula. It was therefore considered appropriate to name the constituency reflecting these elements.

25.6 The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituencies can be found at the following pages: **Gower** (pages 63 and 67) and **Swansea West** (page 63).

Gower and Swansea West (Gŵyr a Gorllewin Abertawe)



26. Llanelli and Lliw (Llanelli a Lliw)

26.1 It is proposed that a county constituency is created from:

1. The whole of the existing constituency of **Llanelli** CC consisting of the County of Carmarthenshire electoral wards of Bigyn (4,439), Burry Port (3,200), Bynea (2,985), Dafen (2,368), Elli (2,216), Felinfoel (1,343), Glanymor (3,833), Glyn (1,630), Hendy (2,381), Hengoed (2,798), Kidwelly (2,705), Llangennech (3,699), Llannon (3,817), Lliedi (3,625), Llwynhendy (2,974), Pembrey (3,232), Pontyberem (2,074), Swiss Valley (2,041), Trimsaran (1,828), Tycroes (1,756) and Tyisha (2,258); and,
2. The electoral wards within the existing **Gower** CC and City and County of Swansea electoral wards of Gorseinon (3,228), Llangyfelach (3,803), Mawr (1,305), Penllergaer (2,466), Penyrheol (4,131) and Pontardulais (4,616).

26.2 This constituency would have 76,751 electors which is 2.7% above the UKEQ of 74,769 electors per constituency. The suggested name for the constituency is **Llanelli and Lliw**. The proposed alternative name is **Llanelli a Lliw**.

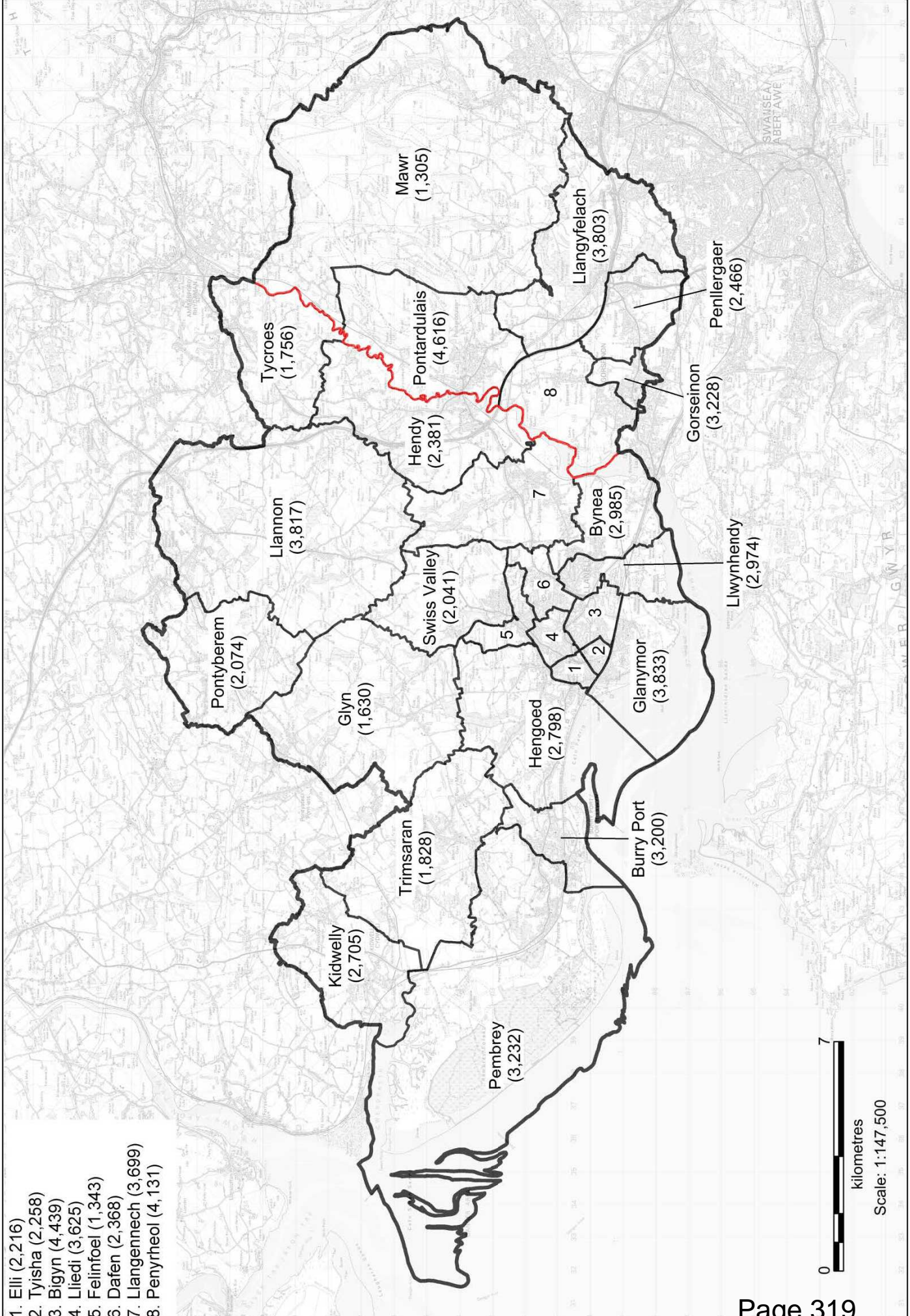
26.3 The electoral wards of the existing Llanelli constituency do not meet the statutory requirements in respect of the size of electorate. It is therefore necessary to include in the proposed new constituency a significant number of additional electors from the surrounding area. The electoral wards of the Gower constituency within the Lliw Valley area to the east are considered suitable to be combined with Llanelli.

26.4 The Commission recognises that there has been a historic separation of Llanelli and Swansea. However, the Commission decided this 'Llanelli and Lliw' proposal to be preferable to alternative schemes considered.

26.5 The proposal would comprise of the whole of the existing Llanelli constituency and the Lliw Valley area of the Gower constituency. The Commission would therefore suggest a name reflecting the whole of the proposal.

26.6 The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing **Gower** can be found at pages 63 and 65.

Llanelli a Lliw (Llanelli and Lliw)



27. Caerfyrddin (Carmarthenshire)

27.1 It is proposed that a county constituency is created from:

1. The electoral wards within the existing **Carmarthen East and Dinefwr** CC and County of Carmarthenshire of Abergwili (1,799), Ammanford (1,861), Betws (1,730), Cilycwm (1,145), Cynwyl Gaeo (1,260), Garnant (1,486), Glanamman (1,720), Gorslas (3,384), Llanddarog (1,570), Llandeilo (2,234), Llandovery (1,980), Llandybie (3,107), Llanegwad (1,887), Llanfihangel Aberbythych (1,417), Llanfihangel-ar-Arth (2,098), Llangadog (1,544), Llangunnor (2,049), Llangyndeyrn (2,550), Llanybydder (1,922), Manordeilo and Salem (1,709), Penygroes (2,143), Pontamman (2,047), Quarter Bach (2,108), St. Ishmael (2,097), Saron (3,028); and,
2. the electoral wards within the existing **Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire** CC and County of Carmarthenshire of Carmarthen Town North (3,606), Carmarthen Town South (2,537), Carmarthen Town West (3,196), Cynwyl Elfed (2,444), Laugharne Township (2,085), Llanboidy (1,582), Llansteffan (1,621), St. Clears (2,300), Trelech (1,659), and Whitland (1,664).

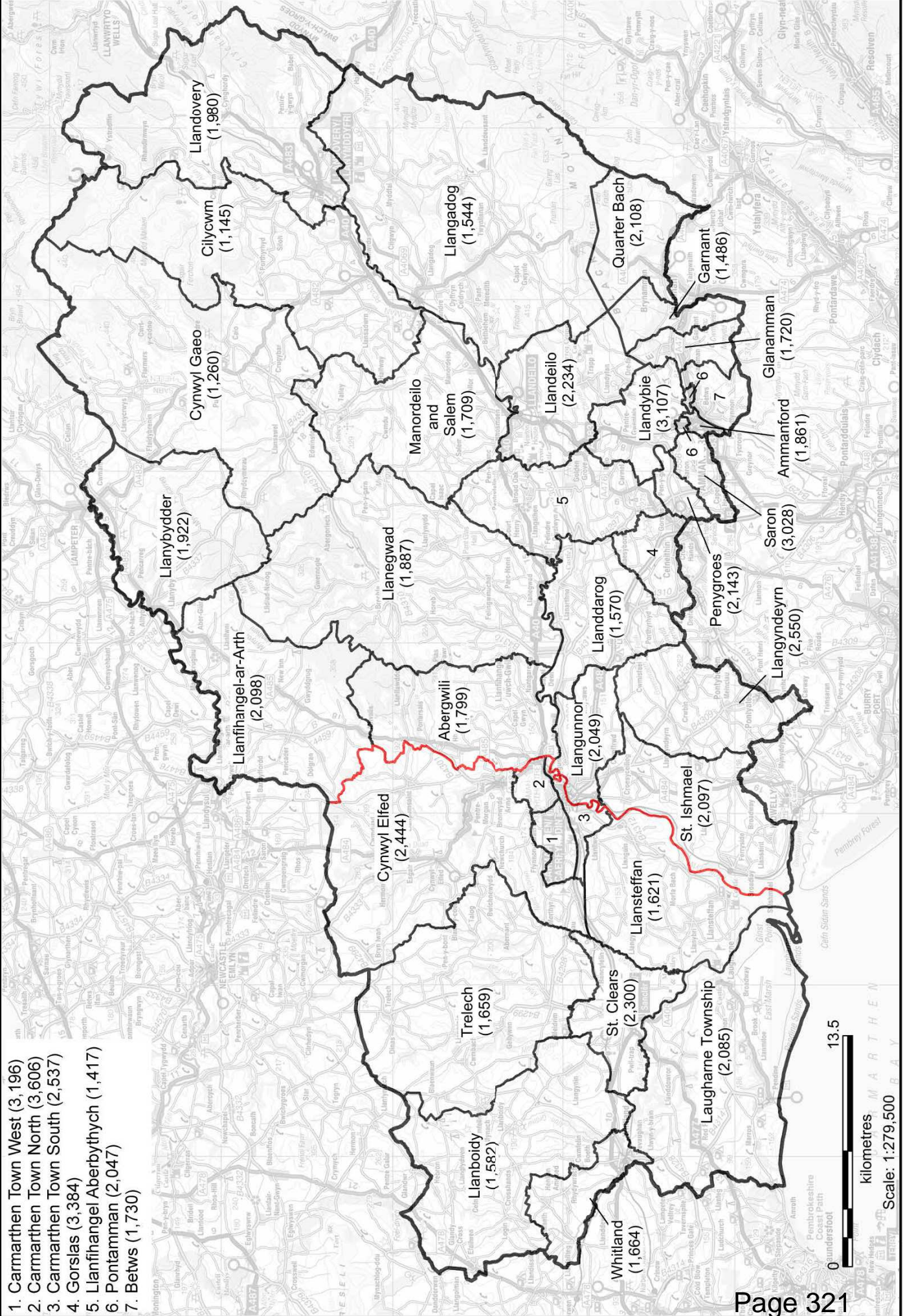
27.2 This constituency would have 72,569 electors which is 2.9% below the UKEQ of 74,769 electors per constituency. The suggested name for the constituency is **Caerfyrddin**. The suggested alternative name is **Carmarthenshire**.

27.3 The electoral wards of the existing Carmarthen East and Dinefwr do not meet the statutory requirements in respect of the size of electorate. This is exacerbated with the transfer of the Cenarth and Llangeler wards to the proposed 'Ceredigion a Gogledd Sir Benfro' (see page 74). It is therefore necessary to include in the proposed new constituency a significant number of additional electors from the surrounding area. The electoral wards in the east of the existing Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire constituency consist of electoral wards of the same well-connected character and are within the County of Carmarthenshire, and have the appropriate number of electors to create a new constituency within the statutory range.

27.4 The proposed constituency includes electoral wards wholly within the principal council area of Carmarthenshire, the Commission therefore utilised that name as the proposed name. Having regard to the linguistic characteristics of the larger part of the area involved, the Commission has decided to give the proposal a Welsh language official name and an English language alternative name.

27.5 The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituencies can be found at the following pages: **Carmarthen East and Dinefwr** (page 73) and **Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire** (page 71).

Caerfyrddin (Carmarthenshire)



28. South Pembrokeshire (De Sir Benfro)

28.1 It is proposed that a county constituency is created from:

1. The electoral wards within the existing **Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire** CC and the County of Pembrokeshire of Amroth (909), Carew (1,106), East Williamston (1,816), Hundleton (1,346), Kilgetty/Begelly (1,563), Lampeter Velfrey (1,211), Lamphey (1,318), Manorbier (1,568), Martletwy (1,510), Narberth (1,483), Narberth Rural (1,143), Pembroke Dock: Central (1,007), Pembroke Dock: Llanion (1,853), Pembroke Dock: Market (1,216), Pembroke Dock: Pennar (2,257), Pembroke: Monkton (962), Pembroke: St. Mary North (1,380), Pembroke: St. Mary South (946), Pembroke: St. Michael (1,998), Penally (1,188), Saundersfoot (1,867), Tenby: North (1,574) and Tenby: South (1,661); and,
2. the electoral wards within the existing **Preseli Pembrokeshire** CC and the County of Pembrokeshire of Burton (1,401), Camrose (1,992), Haverfordwest: Castle (1,466), Haverfordwest: Garth (1,539), Haverfordwest: Portfield (1,642), Haverfordwest: Prendergast (1,467), Haverfordwest: Priory (1,731), Johnston (1,867), Letterston (1,706), Llangwm (1,724), Llanrhian (1,155), Maenclochog (2,248), Merlin's Bridge (1,478), Milford: Central (1,389), Milford: East (1,436), Milford: Hakin (1,672), Milford: Hubberston (1,738), Milford: North (1,854), Milford: West (1,441), Neyland: East (1,697), Neyland: West (1,511), Rudbaxton (816), St. David's (1,413), St. Ishmael's (1,049), Solva (1,144), The Havens (1,118) and Wiston (1,494).

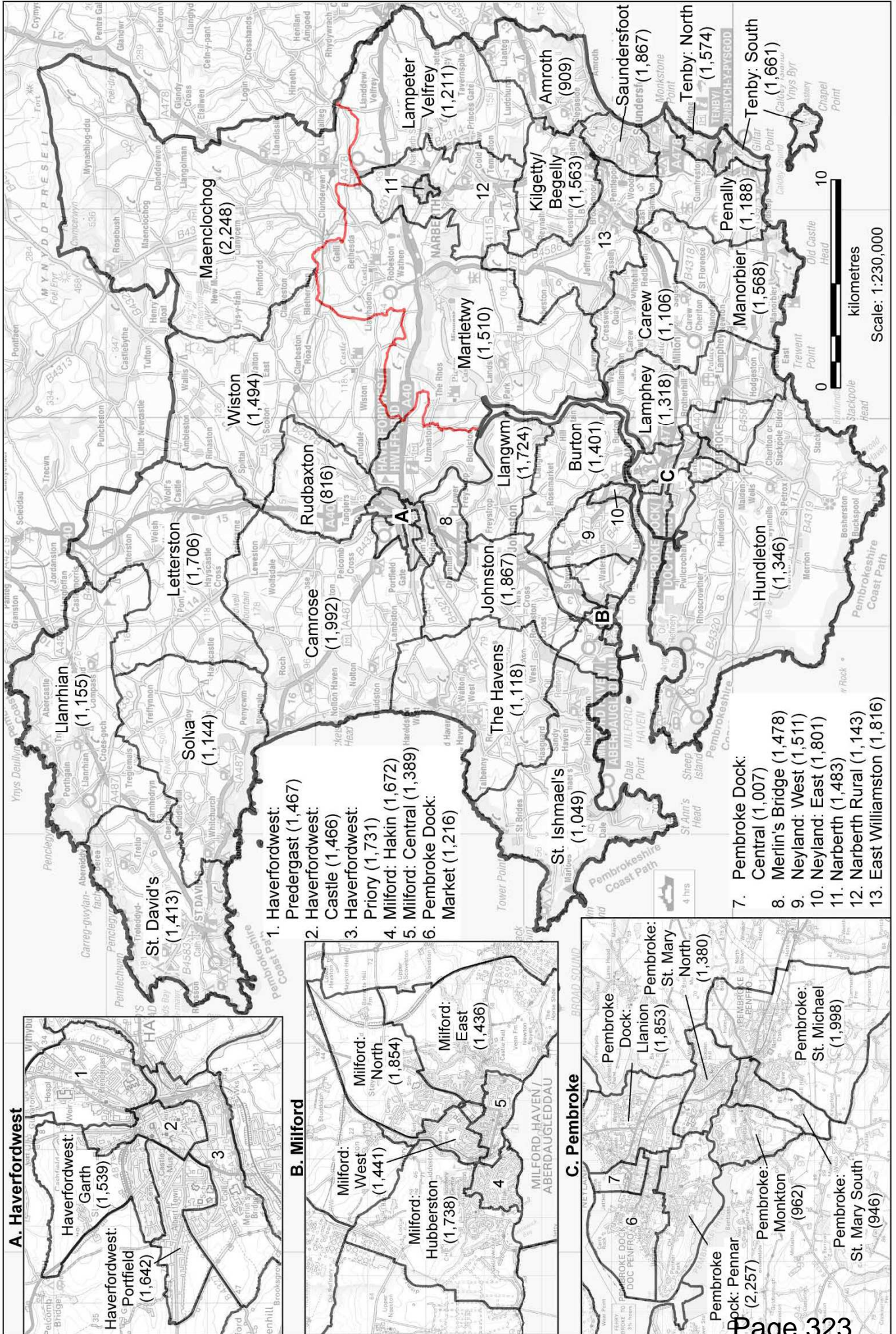
28.2 This constituency would have 74,070 electors which is 0.9% below the UKEQ of 74,769 electors per constituency. The suggested name for the constituency is **South Pembrokeshire**. The suggested alternative name is **De Sir Benfro**.

28.3 The Commission considers that the electoral wards in the existing Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire would be appropriately combined with the southern electoral wards of the existing Preseli Pembrokeshire constituency. Whilst, this proposal would split the two existing constituencies of Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire and Preseli Pembrokeshire it allows for the creation of two new constituencies which contain areas which are exclusively within the principal authority areas of Carmarthenshire (see page 69) and Pembrokeshire.

28.4 The Commission considers that the South Pembrokeshire suggested name would accurately reflect the electoral wards in the proposed constituency and would differentiate from the northern electoral wards of Pembrokeshire that are described at page 73.

28.5 The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing **Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire** and **Preseli Pembrokeshire** can be found at pages 69 and 73, respectively.

South Pembrokeshire (De Sir Benfro)



29. Ceredigion a Gogledd Sir Benfro (Ceredigion and North Pembrokeshire)

29.1 It is proposed that a county constituency is created from:

1. The whole of the existing **Ceredigion** CC consisting of the County of Ceredigion electoral wards of Aberaeron (1,030), Aberporth (1,685), Aberteifi/Cardigan-Mwldan (1,463), Aberteifi/Cardigan-Rhyd-y-Fuwch (815), Aberteifi/Cardigan-Teifi (688), Aberystwyth Bronglais (894), Aberystwyth Canol/Central (1,106), Aberystwyth Gogledd/North (1,064), Aberystwyth Penparcau (2,067), Aberystwyth Rheidol (1,414), Beulah (1,268), Borth (1,513), Capel Dewi (1,003), Ceulanamaesmawr (1,443), Ciliau Aeron (1,468), Faenor (1,332), Lampeter (1,555), Llanarth (1,076), Llanbadarn Fawr-Padarn (721), Llanbadarn Fawr-Sulien (790), Llandyfriog (1,319), Llandysilio-gogo (1,430), Llandysul Town (942), Llanfarian (1,090), Llanfihangel Ystrad (1,504), Llangeitho (1,064), Llanybi (1,104), Llanrhystyd (1,208), Llansantffraed (1,832), Llanwenog (1,336), Lledrod (1,659), Melindwr (1,478), New Quay (782), Penbryn (1,612), Pen-parc (1,773), Tirymynach (1,276), Trefeurig (1,291), Tregaron (847), Troedyaaur (1,006) and Ystwyth (1,484);
2. the electoral wards within the existing **Carmarthen East and Dinefwr** CC and the County of Carmarthenshire of Cenarth (1,570) and Llangeler (2,546);
3. the electoral wards within the existing **Montgomeryshire** CC and County of Powys of Blaen Hafren (1,782) and Llanidloes (2,070); and,
4. the electoral wards within the existing **Preseli Pembrokeshire** CC and County of Pembrokeshire of Cilgerran (1,396), Clydau (1,105), Crymych (1,918), Dinas Cross (1,210), Fishguard North East (1,399), Fishguard North West (1,094), Goodwick (1,335), Newport (812), Sceddau (1,076) and St. Dogmaels (1,647).

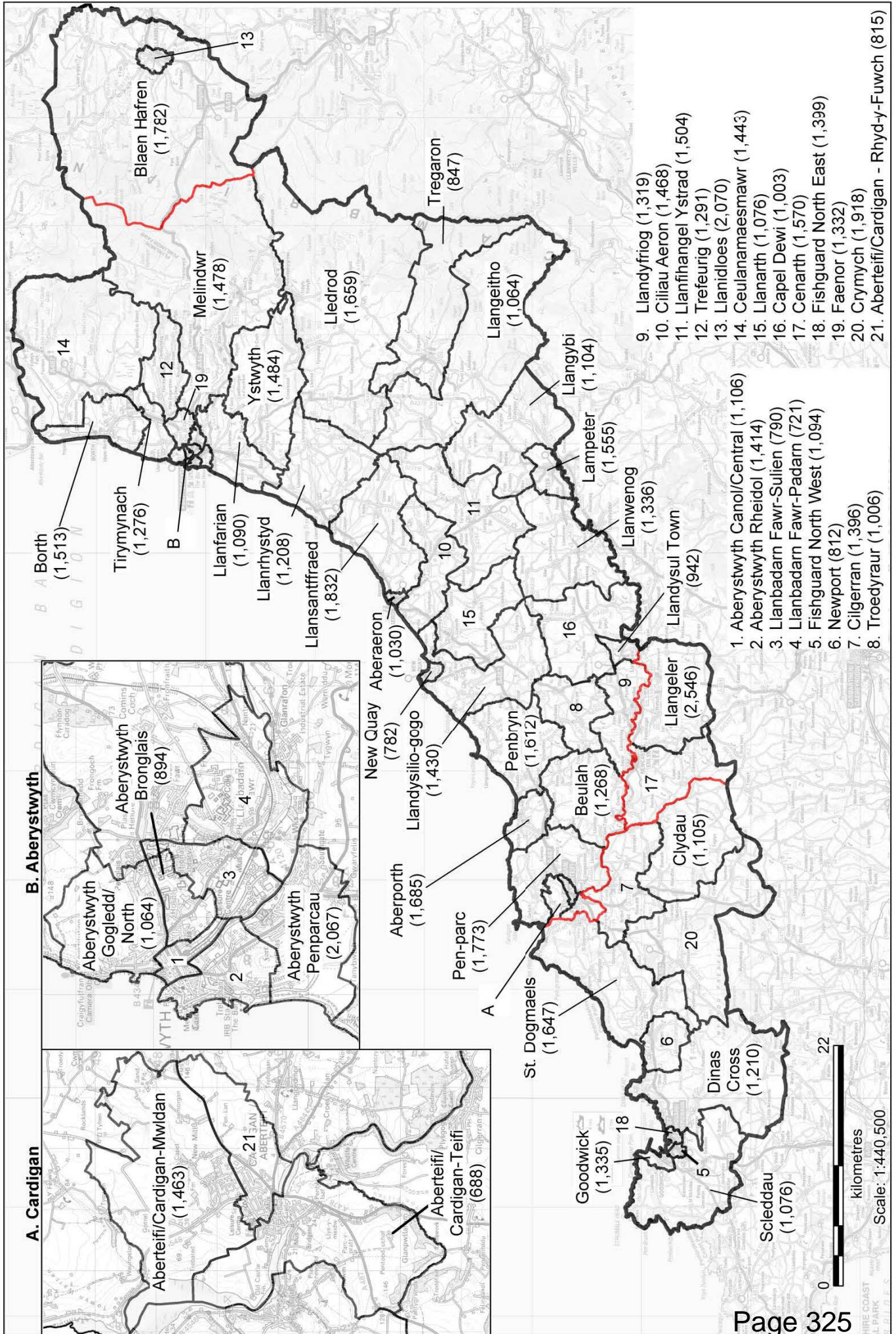
29.2 This constituency would have 71,392 electors which is 4.5% below the UKEQ of 74,769 electors per constituency. The suggested name for the constituency is **Ceredigion a Gogledd Sir Benfro**. The suggested alternative name is **Ceredigion and North Pembrokeshire**.

29.3 The existing constituency of Ceredigion requires a significant number of additional electors to form a constituency within the statutory range. The Commission considered several options and decided that it is most appropriate to continue the constituency along the coast and the A487 into the Pembrokeshire principal council area to include parts of the existing constituency of Preseli Pembrokeshire. Furthermore the electoral ward of Cenarth includes Newcastle Emlyn which has very close links with the settlement of Adpar in the adjoining electoral ward of Llandyfriog.

29.4 The existing constituency of Ceredigion is included wholly within the proposed constituency and is combined with a number of electoral wards from the north of Pembrokeshire. The Commission decided the name should reflect these areas. Having regard to the linguistic characteristics of the larger part of the area involved, the Commission has decided to give the proposal a Welsh language official name and an English language alternative name.

29.5 The remainder of the electoral wards of the existing constituencies can be found at the following pages: **Carmarthen East and Dinefwr** (page 69), **Montgomeryshire** (pages 27 and 31) and **Preseli Pembrokeshire** (page 71).

Ceredigion a Gogledd Sir Benfro (Ceredigion and North Pembrokeshire)



Chapter 7 Publication details

Publication of Initial Proposals

1. Notification of the publication of the Commission's initial proposals, where they can be seen and the dates and locations of public hearings will be published formally on 13 September 2016. Principal Councils, MPs, AMs, the Political Parties, and others will be sent a copy of the proposals.
2. The notice, proposals, maps and details of the public hearings will also be published on the Commission's web site at www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk

Places of Inspection

3. The notice will also give the addresses within the existing parliamentary constituencies where a copy of the proposals, and a more detailed map illustrating them, has been made available for inspection by the public. Those addresses can be found at Appendix 3.

Welsh language

4. The Commission is committed to equal use of both the Welsh and English languages and welcomes correspondence in either language.
5. Section 7 of the Welsh Language Act 1993 requires public bodies, which provide services to the public in Wales, to have a Welsh language scheme. A copy of the Commission's Welsh Language Scheme is on the website or available on request.
6. Simultaneous translation facilities will be provided at the public hearings (See Chapter 8).

Chapter 8 The initial consultation period: 13 September 2016 to 5 December 2016

1. The Commission is required to consider representations about their initial proposals for the Review that are received within 12 weeks of their publication on 13 September 2016. Representations should be addressed to the Boundary Commission for Wales, Hastings House, Fitzalan Court, Cardiff, CF24 0BL, faxed to 02920 464820, or e-mailed to bcomm.wales@wales.gsi.gov.uk. The Commission requests that all representations make it clear which area or areas they concern. All representations received by the Commission will be acknowledged. The period for submitting representations will end on 5 December 2016.
2. Please note that the Commission will not consider any representations received before or after this designated consultation period. The Commission therefore asks that all representations be made within the 12 week period.
3. Those who wish to make representations are requested to say whether they approve of, or object to, the Commission's proposals and to give their reasons for their approval or objection. In particular, objectors are advised to say what they would propose as an alternative to the Commission's proposals and should note that an objection accompanied by a counter-proposal is likely to carry more weight than a simple statement of objection. In this respect – and particularly in light of the importance of Rule 2 (statutory electorate range) – a counter-proposal setting out the composition of each constituency will generally be viewed as more persuasive than a proposal for the composition of only one constituency which does not address any likely consequential effects on the electorate figures of other constituencies.
4. The Commission wishes to stress that these proposals relate solely to the Parliamentary constituencies and do not affect National Assembly for Wales constituencies, principal council, electoral ward or community boundaries, taxes or services. The Commission will therefore not take account of any representation made about those issues. The Commission also wishes to stress that it will not consider the parts of representations where comment is made on the number of Parliamentary seats allocated to Wales or on the statutory electorate range. These have been set by Parliament and cannot be changed by the Commission. Furthermore, representations submitted during the course of the 2013 Review will not be reconsidered and new representations will need to be submitted for consideration in this review.

Public Hearings

5. The Commission is required to conduct at least two and no more than five public hearings in Wales. The public hearings in Wales shall be concerned with proposals for Wales, and shall between them cover the whole of Wales.
6. A public hearing is intended to provide an opportunity for people to make representations about any of the Commission's initial proposals and to present any counter-proposals. Unlike the local inquiries of the past, a public hearing under the statutory scheme is not intended to

focus to any significant degree on comments about any counter-proposals that may be put forward by others, as this can be done in the secondary consultation period (see paragraph 15 below).

7. Representations at each public hearing are likely to focus on proposals for the area closest to the location of the hearing, but this does not preclude making representations that relate to any part or the whole of Wales.
8. Each hearing is chaired by an independent Assistant Commissioner selected by the Commission, who controls proceedings and may ask – or allow to be asked – questions of an individual making representations. Questions should be asked through the Chair and should ordinarily be seeking clarification rather than trying to ‘cross-examine’ the speaker on his or her view.
9. The dates and locations of the public hearings have been published at Appendix 4 and on the Commission’s website. Further notices will also be advertised shortly before the hearings.
10. Individuals wishing to make an oral representation at one of the hearings are encouraged to book in advance with the Commission. Details of how to book a speaking slot at a public hearing will be published alongside the initial proposals.
11. The Commission should make it clear that the duration of speaking slots may be limited, so representations will need to be clear, concise and focused. Those intending to speak at a public hearing will also need to be reasonably flexible about when exactly they are asked to start and finish their representation.
12. It will be for the Assistant Commissioner chairing the public hearing to decide when to call on speakers and the amount of time to be allocated to them. To aid the Assistant Commissioner in this task, it will be helpful if a synopsis or outline of the points the speaker wishes to make can be provided in advance. Guidance on how and when to do this will be published alongside the initial proposals.
13. The Commission encourages the use of visual aids during the making of oral representations at public hearings. The Commission will have a laptop and projector available at each hearing to provide for an electronic presentation using Microsoft Office™ software (for example, PowerPoint™). The Commission will also seek to facilitate the use of other visual aids as far as reasonably practical, where sufficient notice is given.
14. A verbatim transcript taken at each public hearing of all the representations made, and any visual aids used at a presentation will be attached to the transcript of that hearing.

Secondary consultation period

15. As soon as possible after the initial 12-week consultation on the Commission’s initial proposals, the Commission will publish on its website all of the representations that it has received (including transcripts of the public hearings) in both Welsh and English. The Commission will redact information from representations in adherence to its Privacy Policy which can be found below and on the Commission’s website. A hard copy will also be deposited at the same time in at least one location within each proposed constituency.

16. Once the representations have been published there will be a further statutory four-week period during which people can submit to the Commission written comments on those representations it received during the initial consultation period, for example, challenging or supporting assertions made in a representation. There are no public hearings at this stage.
17. Once translated and redacted the Commission will publish all the written representations received during the four-week secondary consultation period.

Redaction and Privacy Policy

18. The Commission wishes to publish as much of the representations and other correspondence that it receives. However, the need for transparency needs to be balanced against the protection of an individual's right to privacy and the statutory requirement for the Commission to protect an individual's personal data.
19. The Commission has therefore created a redaction policy which it will apply to all representations that it receives and places in the public domain. These are as follows:

Representations made at Public Hearings:-

- No redaction of names of those making a representation.
- If a paper/ speaking note is submitted as part of their presentation which includes the person's address the Commission will redact the address but not the geographical location, i.e. the village, town or city where that person(s) resides.

Written (including electronic) Representations:-

Public Persons/ Officials (i.e. MPs/ AMs/ Councillors - writing in an official capacity:

- The Commission intends to publish the name, address and contact details of any public person/ official writing in an official capacity.
- Signatures, however, will be redacted

Members of the public and Public Persons/ Officials writing in a personal capacity:

- The Commission intends to publish the name of everyone who submits a representation but will redact addresses with the exception of the geographical location, i.e. the village, town or city where that person(s) resides. If a member of the public wishes his or her name to be redacted the Commission will do so on request.
- All email addresses will be redacted.
- All telephone numbers will be redacted.
- All signatures will be redacted.

In addition, the Commission will also redact anything in a representation which could be illegal and/ or libellous.

Chapter 9 Additional Information

Crown Copyright

1. The maps deposited at the places of deposit were produced by the Boundary Commission for Wales under licence from Ordnance Survey. These maps and the maps that form part of this document 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 initial proposals should first contact the Copyright Office at Ordnance Survey

Enquiries

2. Should you require further information about these initial proposals or about other aspects of the Commission's work please contact:

Boundary Commission for Wales
Hastings House
Fitzalan Court
Cardiff
CF24 0BL

Telephone: 02920 464819

Fax: 02920 464820

Email: bcomm.wales@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Website: www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1

INITIAL PROPOSALS CONSTITUENCIES

Constituency Name	Alternative Name	Electorate	Variance from UKEQ
Alyn and Deeside	Alyn a Glannau Dyfrdwy	76,678	2.6%
Blaenau Gwent	Blaenau Gwent	75,664	1.2%
Brecon, Radnor and Montgomery	Aberhonddu, Maesyfed a Threfaldwyn	72,115	3.5%
Bridgend and Vale of Glamorgan West	Pen-y-bont a Gorllewin Bro Morgannwg	73,004	-2.4%
Caerfyrddin	Carmarthenshire	72,569	-2.9%
Caerphilly	Caerffili	76,323	2.1%
Cardiff North	Gogledd Caerdydd	78,014	4.3%
Cardiff South and East	De a Dwyrain Caerdydd	77,059	3.1%
Cardiff West	Gorllewin Caerdydd	75,563	1.1%
Ceredigion a Gogledd Sir Benfro	Ceredigion and North Pembrokeshire	71,392	-4.5%
Colwyn and Conwy	Colwyn a Conwy	75,035	0.4%
Cynon Valley and Pontypridd	Cwm Cynon a Phontypridd	78,005	4.3%
De Clwyd a Gogledd Sir Faldwyn	South Clwyd and North Montgomeryshire	71,097	-4.9%
Flint and Rhuddlan	Fflint a Rhuddlan	75,902	1.5%
Gogledd Clwyd a Gwynedd	North Clwyd and Gwynedd	76,147	1.8%
Gower and Swansea West	Gŵyr a Gorllewin Abertawe	77,873	4.2%
Llanelli and Lliw	Llanelli a Lliw	76,751	2.7%
Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney	Merthyr Tudful a Rhymni	77,770	4%
Monmouthshire	Sir Fynwy	74,532	-0.3%
Neath and Aberavon	Castell-nedd ac Aberafon	77,397	3.5%
Newport	Casnewydd	75,986	1.6%
Ogmore and Port Talbot	Ogwr a Phort Talbot	72,503	-3%
Rhondda and Llantrisant	Rhondda a Llantrisant	74,965	-0.3%
South Pembrokeshire	De Sir Benfro	74,070	-0.9%
Swansea East	Dwyrain Abertawe	76,514	2.3%
Torfaen	Torfaen	72,367	-3.2%
Vale of Glamorgan East	Dwyrain Bro Morgannwg	76,984	3%
Wrexham Maelor	Wreccsam Maelor	72,137	-3.5%
Ynys Môn ac Arfon	Isle of Anglesey and Arfon	77,425	3.6%

APPENDIX 2

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APPENDIX 3

PLACES OF DEPOSIT

Existing Constituency	Deposit Address
Aberavon	Council Offices, Civic Centre, Port Talbot SA11 2GG
Aberconwy	Council Offices, Bodlondeb, Conwy LL32 8DU
Alyn and Deeside	Public Library, Wepre Drive, Connah's Quay CH5 4HA
Arfon	County Offices, Caernarfon LL55 1SH
Blaenau Gwent	The General Offices, Steelworks Road, Ebbw Vale NP23 6DN
Brecon and Radnorshire	Council Offices, Cambrian Way, Brecon LD3 7HR County Hall, Llandrindod Wells LD1 5LG Library Services Knighton, West Street, Knighton LD7 1EN
Bridgend	Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend CF31 4WB
Caerphilly	Penallta House, Tredomen Park, Ystrad Mynach, Hengoed CF82 7PG
Cardiff Central	County Hall, Cardiff CF10 4UW
Cardiff North	Whitchurch Library, Park Road, Whitchurch CF14 7XA
Cardiff South and Penarth	Grangetown Hub, Havelock Place, Grangetown, CF11 6PA Penarth Library, Stanwell Road, Penarth CF64 2YT
Cardiff West	Canton Library, Library Street, Canton CF5 1QD
Carmarthen East and Dinefwr	Carmarthen Customer Service Centre, 3 Spilman Street, Carmarthen, SA31 1LE
Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire	Statutory Services, Block 4, Parc Myrddin, Richmond Terrace, Carmarthen, SA31 1HQ
Ceredigion	Council Offices, Neuadd Cyngor Ceredigion, Penmorfa, Aberaeron, SA46 0PA
Clwyd South	Llangollen Library, Y Capel, Castle Street, Llangollen LL20 8NY
Clwyd West	County Hall, Wynnstay Road, Ruthin LL15 1YN Civic Offices, Colwyn Bay, LL29 8AR
Cynon Valley	Central Library, High Street, Aberdare CF44 7AG
Delyn	County Hall, Mold CH7 6NB
Dwyfor Meirionnydd	Council Offices, Ffordd y Cob, Pwllheli LL53 5AA Council Offices, Cae Penarlâg, Dolgellau LL40 2YB
Gower	Gorseinon Library, 15 West Street, Gorseinon, Swansea, SA4 4AA Gowerton Library, Mansel Street, Gowerton, Swansea, SA4 3BU
Islwyn	Blackwood Library, 192 High Street, Blackwood, NP12 1AJ
Llanelli	Llanelli Library, Llanelli SA15 3AS
Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney	Civic Centre, Castle Street, Merthyr Tydfil CF47 8AN

BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES

Monmouth	Abergavenny Library, Baker street, Abergavenny, NP7 5BD Monmouth Community Hub, Rolls Hall, Monmouth, NP25 3BY Chepstow Community Hub, Manor Way, Chepstow, NP16 5HZ Gilwern Library, Community Education Centre, Common Road, Gilwern, NP7 0DS Usk Community Hub, 35 Maryport Street, Usk, NP15 1AE
Montgomeryshire	Welshpool Area Office, Severn Road, Welshpool SY21 7AS Library Service Newtown, Park Lane, Newtown, SY16 1EJ
Neath	Council Offices, Civic Centre, Neath SA11 3QZ
Newport East	Ringland Library, 6 Ringland Centre, Newport, NP19 9HG Caldicot Community Hub, Woodstock Way, Caldicot NP26 5DB
Newport West	Civic Centre, Newport NP20 4UR
Ogmore	Maesteg Library, North Lane, Maesteg CF34 9AA Pencoed Library, Pen-y-bont Road, Pencoed CF35 5RA
Pontypridd	Unit 2, Maritime Business Park, Maritime Industrial Estate, Pontypridd CF37 1NY
Preseli Pembrokeshire	Electoral Services, Cherry Grove, Haverfordwest SA61 2NZ County Hall, Haverfordwest, SA61 1TP
Rhondda	Council Offices, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale CF40 2XX
Swansea East	Morrison Library, Treharne Road, Swansea SA6 7AA
Swansea West	Civic Centre, Oystermouth Road, Swansea, SA1 3SN
Torfaen	Civic Centre, Pontypool NP4 6YB
Vale of Clwyd	Rhyl Library, Church Street, Rhyl LL18 3AA
Vale of Glamorgan	Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU
Wrexham	The Guildhall, Wrexham LL11 1WF
Ynys Môn	Election Services, Swyddfeydd y Cyngor, Llangefni, LL77 7TW

APPENDIX 4

DATE, LOCATION AND VENUE OF THE PUBLIC HEARINGS

Date	Location	Venue
12 – 13 October 2016	Carmarthen	Ivy Bush Royal Hotel
19 – 20 October 2016	Bangor	The Management Centre, Bangor University
26 – 27 October 2016	Cardiff	Mercure Holland House
02 – 03 November 2016	Llandrindod	Metropole Hotel
09 – 10 November 2016	Wrexham	Catrin Finch Centre, Glyndwr University

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EXECUTIVE BOARD 17TH OCTOBER, 2016

DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE SERVICE DELIVERY MODELS IN ADULT SOCIAL CARE SERVICES – PROJECT UPDATE

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress in relation to the development of Alternative Service Delivery Models in Adult Social Care Services, together with key learning points and further work that needs to be completed.

Recommendations / key decisions required:

- That further work is undertaken to consider the evidence in the UK of successful trading company and Alternative Delivery Models
- That the current focus for our in-house social care services should be on improving their efficiency and effectiveness under current arrangements.

Reasons:

- To ensure that learning from the Alternative Service Delivery Models project is captured and shared across the Authority
- To ensure that any issues arising from the project are considered and taken forward by the department

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted - NO

Exec Board Decision Required YES – 17th October, 2016

Council Decision Required NO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr Jane Tremlett- Health and Social Care

Directorate: Communities

Designations:

Tel Nos. /Email Addresses:

Name of Head of Service:
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
EXECUTIVE BOARD
17TH OCTOBER, 2016

Development of Alternative Service Delivery Models in Adult Social Care Services – Project Update

Purpose of the report

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress in relation to the development of Alternative Service Delivery Models in Adult Social Care Services, together with key learning points and further work that needs to be completed.

Background and Context

The Council faces considerable financial challenges. As Adult Social Care is often one of the biggest budget spend areas, year on year efficiency savings fall heavily in this area. In response, the departmental management team wished to explore the opportunities offered by new delivery models, with the express intention of ensuring quality, cost effectiveness and the ability to respond to current and future demand.

The department recognised that new service models for individuals, communities and partners have the potential to deliver benefits and improve outcomes for service users. A cross departmental project team was established with representation from key managers and officers from operational teams in Adult Services, Legal, Finance and HR. The project team was supported through the process by consultants who had previous experience of developing alternative service delivery models within other local authorities. The project team reported progress to a project board which met on a monthly basis and which was attended by members of the project team, the Director of Communities and Heads of Service as well as the Executive Board Member for Adult Social Care.

Progress to date

The project team developed an options appraisal for services in scope to assess and recommend the future for these services that best fits the Council's requirements and ambitions. These services included:

- Residential Homes
- LD Respite Home
- LD Steps
- LD Social Centres
- MH Day Centres
- OP Day Centres
- Coleshill SC
- Domiciliary Services and Re-ablement

- Careline
- Extra-Care
- Shared Lives

The drivers behind the options appraisal were:

- Quality (e.g. Choice/Provider of Last Resort/Legislative requirements/partnerships/outcomes)
- Cost (e.g. Savings/Income/Growth)
- Governance and flexibility (e.g. accommodate new services/respond quickly to market changes)
- Acceptability to stakeholders (e.g. service users, carers, staff, partners and Members)
- Ability to transform services

The options appraisal considered a number of alternative service delivery models which included:

- Retaining services in-house
- Outsourcing
- A Local Authority Trading Company (LATC)
- Community Interest Company (CIC)

The options appraisal concluded that a Local Authority Trading Company (LATC) would best meet the above drivers and recommended that a Full Business Case (FBC) be developed to test and prove the net benefit of this option to the Council, its services and its residents.

A draft business case was developed which contained a number of assumptions. These included:

- **Halting the decline of current services**
The financial and demographic pressures on the current services have created a cycle of cutting costs and reducing service delivery. One of the key intentions through setting up of an LATC is to halt this decline. The services will be free to develop new services, sell to new customers, and invest in the delivery of high quality care and support.
- **Ultimate control and risk management:**
The LATC will be 100% publicly owned and controlled by the Council enabling it to ensure the Company maintains high quality management and delivery, delivers on the strategic intentions of the Council, plus invests or returns profits back to the Council as appropriate
- **Controlling Costs**
One of the reasons for creating an LATC is its ability to provide services in a more efficient and flexible manner, thus reducing costs and providing the Council with services at a lower price even after covering the costs of managing and governing a business of this size outside of the Council
- **Faster moving:**
The Company, by virtue of its size and focus, will be able to take advantage of new opportunities and make changes to its operations and services more quickly than it is currently able to being part of the much larger organisation, the Council.

- **More focused:**
 From the Chair of the Board, down to the frontline staff, the only purpose for the company will be the care and support of their customers. This will give a real focus to everything that the company does and enable it to deliver services in a way that isn't possible within a much larger organisation.
- **Able to trade:**
 The Council cannot currently 'sell' its services to private individuals. The LATC because it is a company, will be free to sell its current, and future new, services to:

 - Private customers
 - Direct Payment recipients
 - Neighbouring Councils
- **Able to expand:**
 The LATC will be free to develop new services, such as for the growing demand for dementia support, and move into new markets, such as neighbouring councils. This is a real benefit that being a trading company will bring to CTC.
- **Management of the market:**
 The LATC will be able to operate in the same market as the independent sector. This will allow the Council to retain a degree of management of the market, ensuring that future commissioners operate in a mixed economy of care with the Council, through the LATC expanding to become a more significant provider
- **Act as 'Provider of Last Resort':**
 When an independent sector provider, such as a residential home, fails, the Council will be able to ask the LATC to step in as Provider of Last Resort to stabilise the situation and ensure the customers are safe. The Council will then be able, if appropriate, to ask the LATC to take over the failed service, bringing it up to standard alongside its other services.
- **Deliver on the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act:**
 The LATC provides the opportunity to support the implementation of the provisions of the Act by virtue of having a rounded offering of services, for example being able to offer a service in response to people with personal budgets and supporting the provision of re-ablement services.
- **Quality of service delivery:**
 A clearly defined commissioning relationship between the services and the Council will ensure a greater focus on the clarity of expenditure and of what services are required. This will result in an increased emphasis on the quality of service delivery in the Company which will drive up standards.
- **Quality of staff:**
 The Company will be free to invest in developing its staff through the trading surplus it is expected to generate. The protection of staff terms and conditions would ensure that the company would be able to retain and develop staff.

Further Work to be undertaken

The business case was presented to a recent project board meeting, when a thorough discussion and evaluation of the document took place. The project team was asked to undertake a further research and evaluation of the above assumptions to ensure that they were valid. Prioritisation was given to the following areas:

- Completing a stress test of the above assumptions to ensure they are robust
- A completion of a population needs assessment to further inform the business case and future development of an LATC
- Further research to identify existing LATC's to examine how effective they are in improving services to customers and delivering efficiencies
- Further research on alternative service delivery models other than LATC that operate across the UK together with their effectiveness
- An evaluation of the potential impact on the LATC of the new Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act
- Implications of impact of the development of an LATC on support services
- Development of a clearly specified service level agreement for commissioned in-house services
- A risk assessment of the potential impact on TECKAL compliance given the recent outcome of the EU referendum

Key learning points

A number of key learning points have emerged from the project. These will be used to inform the additional work which has been requested by the project board and where appropriate will be shared across the Authority. These include the following areas:

- The project scope should have been defined earlier on in the process. This would have focused resources and saved time
- Where clarity of purpose, roles and responsibilities as well as resources are in place earlier, the project is achievable
- A comprehensive engagement plan was needed at the start of the process
- It was felt that the Equality Impact Assessment had followed the correct process and was very detailed
- The cross-departmental working group approach worked well
- The project team meetings were successful and officers involved in the process were committed and delivered information to support the development of the business case when it was required
- The project planning and organisation of the project was effectively managed and the governance arrangements were also effective in ensuring that key decisions were made by Project Board.
- A more informed understanding of the benefits of the various models has been developed by the project team and a greater awareness of the process surrounding the project has been gained.
- A more detailed understanding of the service areas and how alternative service models could be used to develop and improve services has been developed
- Communication was undertaken with members both informally and formally and with the trade unions. Briefing notes were issued to keep staff informed.

- Further engagement should be completed with staff to enhance their understanding of the models.

Conclusion

Valuable lessons have been learnt in the development of this business case and there is clear potential in the future to consider the delivery of council services through alternative delivery models. However, more work should be taken forward in considering established models elsewhere in the UK. Any learning from this could be considered next year however, improving the efficiency and effectiveness of our own in-house services should be the priority over the coming months.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	NO
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IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: **Robin Staines** Head of Housing and Public Protection and Care and Support

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities NONE	Legal NONE	Finance NONE	ICT NONE	Risk Management Issues NONE	Staffing Implications NONE	Physical Assets NONE
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CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: **Robin Staines** Head of Housing, Public Protection and Care and Support

1. **Scrutiny Committee** - N/A
2. **Local Member(s)** - N/A
3. **Community / Town Council** - N/A
4. **Relevant Partners** - N/A
5. **Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations** Yes. Information bulletins have been circulated to staff and are held on the intranet. Discussions have taken place at the Departmental Trade Union Forum at various meetings

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THERE ARE NONE