

# **Torfaen County Borough Council**

## **Review of Communities**

### **Terms of Reference**

**Torfaen County Borough Council**  
**Review of Communities 2023**  
**Terms of Reference**

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## **What is a review of communities and electoral arrangements?**

The Local Government (Democracy)(Wales) Act 2013 places a duty on Torfaen County Borough Council to keep the community boundaries and its electoral arrangements within Torfaen under review.

The review will be conducted in two parts, a review of the community areas and a review of the electoral arrangements for those areas.

Reviewing the community areas considers the need to create, abolish and/or amend the current community boundaries. Where the communities are warded (the community is split into areas for separate representation on the council) the review will consider the current boundaries of the wards and whether these need alteration, existing wards needs abolishing or whether new wards should be created.

It is worth noting that following the last review of local government wards, the electoral wards in Torfaen consists of whole communities, or if warded a whole community ward. Changes to community boundaries may result in consequential changes to electoral ward boundaries, however this is a consideration for the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales as part of their role as the Order-making body.

Reviewing the electoral arrangements takes into consideration the number of community councillors representing individual wards or the whole community.

### **Aims of the review**

The review of communities and electoral arrangements will aim to ensure that any proposals put forward by the Council achieve effective and convenient local government for the electors that the proposals will represent. The Council will aim to achieve this within the parameters set out in the Local Government (Democracy)(Wales) Act 2013 and the guidance set out by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales.

When looking at the current community and electoral arrangements within Torfaen, there is very little consistency in the levels of representation that electors receive. Whilst the council acknowledge that this is partly due to the need to ensure that smaller communities are given the same opportunity as larger ones, the Council is also mindful that, as far as is practicable, the weight of vote for each elector should be the same throughout Torfaen, or at least consistent in communities with similar demographic and geographic factors.

The review will also aim to rectify any obvious anomalies in existing boundaries where developments have been situated since the previous review and consider the levels of representation within the community due to these developments.

## **Why undertake a review of communities and electoral arrangements?**

Section 25 and 31 of the Local Government Act (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 requires all principal authorities in Wales to keep under review the communities within its areas.

The last review was completed by the Council in 2012. In order to maintain its duty relating to the above legislation the Council will commence a review in 2023 with a view to having proposals finalised and agreed by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales in time for the next ordinary Council elections due in 2027.

## **Who will undertake the review?**

Torfaen County Borough Council is responsible for conducting a review of communities and electoral arrangements. In order to conduct the review, the Council has appointed a politically balanced working group of County Borough Councillors to oversee the procedures and have responsibility for formulating the draft and final proposals which will then be submitted to the Council for approval.

## **Scope of the review**

As part of the review, the Council will have regard to:

- The creation, abolition or merging of communities and community wards
- The number of councillors representing the community and, where warded, the number of councillors per ward
- The name of the community and, where warded, the name of community wards

## **Consequential changes**

The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales are the responsible body for reviewing local government electoral boundaries in Wales. Communities and community wards are used by the Commission as building blocks for electoral wards. The Commission is also the Order-making body for Community Reviews and will make the final decision to proposals for community boundary changes. In the event the Commission identifies consequential changes to the local government electoral boundaries, the Commission will make recommendations for those changes to Welsh Government Ministers.

## A timetable for the review

There is no fixed timetable in legislation to conduct a review of the communities and electoral arrangements. The only requirements placed upon the Council are the requirements to ensure effective consultation is carried out as part of the review.

The Council has already completed its first stage of the consultation process in seeking stakeholder views on key factors that would assist the Council in preparing this Terms of Reference. Again, there is no legal requirement for the Council to produce a Terms of Reference as part of the review. However, the Council consider that having a Terms of Reference will lead to a more transparent decision-making process and stakeholders will be able to focus their representations based up the conditions contained within this document.

<b>Timetable for Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements</b>		
<b>Function</b>	<b>Timescales</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
Report to Council to approve commencement of review and appoint members to a working group		25 <sup>th</sup> October 2022
Working group meet to finalise pre-review consultation document which will assist in formulating the Terms of Reference for the review		15 <sup>th</sup> March 2023
Working group to meet to finalise Terms of Reference for the review and prepare for submission to Council	4 weeks	
Terms of Reference for the review to Council for approval		25 <sup>th</sup> April 2023
Consultation period for Terms of Reference	4 weeks	23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2023

Publication of Terms of Reference for the review and public notice of the commencement of the review		7 <sup>th</sup> June 2023
Consultation period for initial proposals	12 weeks	30 <sup>th</sup> August 2023
*Working group to prepare draft proposals for publication	4 weeks	27 <sup>th</sup> September 2023
Publish draft proposals		28 <sup>th</sup> September 2023
Consultation period on draft proposals	12 weeks	20 <sup>th</sup> December 2023
Working group to prepare final proposals	11 weeks	To be arranged
Final proposals submitted to Council for approval		To be arranged
Submission of final proposals report to LDBCW		To be arranged
6 week period where stakeholders can write directly to LDBCW		To be arranged
Council to make order for new electoral arrangements		
New proposals take effect		

Please note that the timetable for this review will vary dependent on the length of time necessary to prepare the draft and final proposals however there will always be a minimum of 9 weeks consultation for stakeholders to make representations to the initial and draft proposals.

## **Consultation**

### **Terms of Reference**

The Council believe that a key factor in achieving a focused and transparent review is to ensure that a Terms of Reference document is used in the decision-making process. To that end, the Council produced and consulted with Community Councils in preparing a relevant Terms of Reference.

The Council will publish its consultation document on the 25<sup>th</sup> April and will hold a 4week consultation period to receive responses. This included writing to political parties, all community and town council councillors and clerks, the Chief Constable of Gwent Police as well public notice of the consultation period. All responses received as part of that consultation are available to view at Appendix A.

### **Initial, Draft and Final Proposals**

The remainder of the review will be conducted in three stages.

The first stage, following publication of the Terms of Reference and Notice of the Councils intention to conduct a review, will invite stakeholders to make representations to the Council on changes that in their opinion would lead to more effective and convenient local government.

Examples of initial representations could include.

- More relevant names for communities and/or community wards
- Boundary anomalies (for example, where the existing boundary cuts through a new development)
- New boundaries and communities
- Merging or abolition of communities and / or community wards
- Proposed levels of representation for new and existing communities and / or wards

All representations for the initial proposals must be submitted to the Council by the 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023. All representations received will be considered by the working group when preparing the draft proposals for publication.

Once the draft proposals are finalised by the working group they will be submitted to the Council for approval. Once Council has approved the draft proposals, they will then be put out for another consultation period. Respondents will have a further 9 weeks following its publication to submit responses to the draft proposals.

The working group will again consider any representations they receive during this period and consider them when preparing the final proposals which will again be submitted to Council for approval. Following approval by the Council, the final proposals will then be submitted to the LDBCW for a final decision to be made on the proposals. Following the submission to LDBCW, there is a 6 week period during which stakeholders can make representations directly to LDBCW, even though this is not a formal consultation stage.

### **Making Representation**

Publication of this Terms of Reference and notice of the Council intention to commence a review will be published on the 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023 Following publication, the consultation



period for the initial proposals will commence for 12 weeks with the consultation period closing on the 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023

The council are inviting stakeholders to make representations based on the criteria set out in this Terms of Reference. Stakeholders can submit representations for the whole of Torfaen, a community/town council area or just a ward within a community. The Council would also wish to receive representations where the existing arrangements are suitable and do not require amendments but will require evidence-based arguments to consider when formulating the proposals.

### **Terms of Reference to be used during review**

The Council will apply the following factors to the decision-making process as part of the review.

#### ***Consultation***

The Council will ensure that various seminars are held during, or prior to, the consultation periods to allow stakeholders to be provided with any additional information they may need to better understand the processes involved in the review.

#### ***Statistics***

The Council will use population statistics based upon the Electoral Register as published on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

Projected forecast statistics will be taken from approved development plans supplied by the Councils planning department. When forecasting the future electorate, the Council will apply the elector:property ratio of:

<b>Electorate</b>	<b>Suggested number of Members</b>
>3500	7
3501 – 5000	8 – 10
5001 – 7000	11 – 15
7001 – 10000	16 – 20
Greater than 10001	19 - 22

#### ***Communities and Electoral Arrangements***

It is accepted that there will not be an ideal fixed size for a community however, the community will need to be of a large enough size to make it viable as an administrative unit

of local government. The Council will seek to ensure that a community is created which is based on an area which reflects the identity and interests of that community.

When considering the boundaries between communities, the Council will ensure that where possible the boundaries will be easily identifiable for stakeholders and will consider the sphere of influence within a community area.

The Council will have regard to all representations it receives as part of the review and will consider the representations during the decision-making process. The decision whether to adopt a particular recommendation or not will be that of the Council. The Council will disregard any representations that are not in the interests of the wider local community, and which are contrary to the Council equalities policy.

The Council will not abolish an existing community or community ward without providing alternative arrangements for electors within that are to continue to receive representation at a local government level.

Should the Council make changes to existing communities or community wards, it will try to ensure that any changes do not upset perceived historic traditions. However, the Council may consider making changes to existing arrangements where changes, such as population shift or additional development, may have led to or potentially lead to a different community identity for that area.

Any stakeholder making representation to the Council requesting a status quo will need to provide the Council with justification as to how the existing arrangements fit within the criteria set out in this Terms of Reference both in the present and the future.

Any representations made that do not comply with this Terms of Reference must be made based upon sound evidence. The representation must also include an evidenced based argument as to the negative impact that any changes to the existing arrangements may have within the community.

There is no legislation that dictates a minimum or maximum size of a community in Wales. For communities in England, legislation was introduced in 2007 relating to community governance reviews which recommend that an area with over 1,000 electors should have its own community. However, there is no upper limit in order for separate communities to be created as the Council still must have regard to local ties and community identity, for example the community of Western Super Mare represents 70,000 electors. For communities that contain between 151 and 999 electors the Council may recommend a community for that area and below 150 electors the Council cannot create a community.

The National Association for Local Councils have provided supplementary guidance to English local authorities conducting community governance reviews recommending that a community should have no fewer than seven councillors in order to carry out its statutory responsibilities effectively.

The Council consider the above information relevant to the review of communities and electoral arrangements and will seek to:

- Ensure that a community is created with no fewer than 1,000 electors
- Consider strong, evidenced based arguments to create a community that has fewer than 1,000 electors and more than 150 electors
- Will not create a community for less than 150 electors
- Ensure that each community that is created is represented by a minimum of 7 councillors

The Council accept that it will not be able to apply a one size fits all approach to the setting of communities and community wards in Torfaen however, the Council also believe that a consistent approach needs to be applied to the levels of representation that communities and community wards will provide.

Whilst the Council acknowledge that this will still provide varying levels of representation throughout Torfaen, it will ensure that the level of representation received in communities with similar characteristics will be consistent throughout Torfaen whilst maintaining the need to ensure that smaller communities still receive representation at local government level.

The Council would like to make clear that the ratios are not prescriptive to the review but will aim to achieve a level of representation as close to these ratios as possible within the communities that are created. In determining whether additional representation is required for a community the council will have consideration to the levels of uncontested seats at community level since the previous review of electoral arrangements implemented at the 2022 ordinary council elections.

### ***Community Wards***

Once an area has been identified as a community the Council will consider the suitability of warding that particular area.

Warding is the division of a community into smaller areas for the purpose of electing councillors. The review will consider the number and boundaries of any wards, number of councillors to be elected for each ward and the names of the wards.

The Council will ensure that the boundaries of any community ward shall be wholly contained within the boundary for the community area in which the ward is situated.

In determining the boundaries between community wards the Council shall have regard to community identity and community interests in the area. Additionally, the Council will consider whether any particular ties or linkages between communities will be broken by the placing of a ward boundary. However, the Council will also consider the benefit of merging existing community wards and consider the benefits this may bring to the community area

particularly in terms of increasing their voice within the community.

## **How to contact us**

Should you wish to submit a written representation regarding this review please send them to:

Election Office  
Torfaen County Borough Council  
Civic Centre  
Pontypool  
Torfaen County Borough Council  
NP4 6YB

Alternatively, you can email your submission to [voting@torfaen.gov.uk](mailto:voting@torfaen.gov.uk)

## **ONLINE CONSULTATION – [Get Involved Torfaen](#)**

Should require any further information or need clarification on the review process then please contact:

Caroline Genever-Jones  
Elections Manager  
Telephone: 01495 766074  
Email: [Caroline.Genever-Jones@torfaen.gov.uk](mailto:Caroline.Genever-Jones@torfaen.gov.uk)

## **Appendix A – Written responses to Terms of Reference Consultation**

### **Response from Blaenavon Town Council**

**Blaenavon Town Council broadly supports the Terms of Reference outlined in the document. However, we submit the following recommendations and observations:**

- 1. Remove the specific guidelines on population ratios and council size from the terms of reference.**

**The inclusion of these guidelines within the Terms of Reference (albeit as ‘suggested’ ratios) indicates that TCBC is predisposed to an elector-member ratio, and, as such, this may limit the flexibility of the review process and potentially bias the outcome of the consultation and review.**

**The reliance on population statistics may not adequately capture the diversity and complexity of local communities. For example, two areas with the same population size may have vastly different social, cultural, and economic characteristics – even within the same Borough.**

**TCBC’s focus on maintaining consistent levels of representation throughout Torfaen may lead to communities being created or divided purely for the sake of achieving numerical targets, rather than reflecting the unique needs and identities of each community.**

- 2. The Terms of Reference, consultation and review process should have explicit regard to Welsh Government policy developments and initiatives on the democratic health of Community and Town Councils.**

**The Review should have regard to the Welsh Government's Written Statement on the Democratic Health of Community and Town Councils (April 2023) which highlights concerns about the low level of engagement between communities and councils, illustrated by many seats being uncontested or unfilled at the 2022 elections.**

**The Welsh Government, along with One Voice Wales, has formed a Democratic Health Task and Finish Group, which will work at pace to explore causes of low engagement and participation. It will identify actions for improving awareness and engagement between communities and their community councils and to increase the number, and diversity, of candidates standing for election to Town and Community Councils.**

**The predisposition towards a reduction in council members, which is implied throughout the Terms of Reference, could damage democracy through reduced representation. If the number of seats were to be reduced, it could mean that certain areas or demographics are not represented on the council, potentially leading to a lack of diverse perspectives and viewpoints.**

**This could make the council less representative of the community it serves. This could make it easier for Town or Community Councils to make decisions without adequate debate, scrutiny, or oversight, especially if there is low or minimal attendance by members at Council meetings.**

If there are fewer seats on the council, it may also decrease opportunities for people to get involved in local democracy. This could lead to a lack of interest and participation in local politics and decision-making, which could further erode democratic engagement and participation.

It should also be noted that Town or Community Councillors, being unsalaried, cost the council taxpayer very little compared with Borough councillors. The knowledge, experience, and expertise they bring therefore provides value for money and gives councils (particularly those with few paid staff) increased manpower and capacity to deliver.

Whilst reducing the number of seats on a community council due to uncontested elections or unfilled seats may seem like a reasonable response to political apathy, it could ultimately have unintended consequences that harm the democratic health of councils and the community they serve.

Instead, efforts should be made to increase awareness, engagement, and participation in local politics and decision-making to encourage more people to stand for election and become involved in their communities. These should be key considerations within the Review rather than a pre-occupation with so-called 'consistency' throughout the Borough and elector-member ratios.

**3. The Terms of Reference should consider the extent of services delivered by a Town or Community Council and the Council's future ambitions.**

The ambition and level of service demonstrated by Town and Community Councils vary considerably. These may relate to the specific needs and priorities of the community, as well as the size of their budget, staffing levels, the competence of its members, and the quality/extent of the council's strategic planning and vision.

Whereas some Town and Community Councils may be content to provide basic services, others may take an active role in the development and improvement of their community and deliver important place-based services. Priorities may also vary.

For example, some Town or Community Councils may prioritise environmental initiatives or social welfare programmes, while others may focus on economic development or cultural activities. The Review should be undertaken in a way that considers these factors and recognises the impact that any proposed change may have on the ongoing delivery of such services or on the long-term strategies of a Town or Community Council.

Moreover, the Review must be cognisant of the Welsh Government's ambition for Town and Community Councils to take on more responsibilities, and the outcome of the Review must not compromise the potential for Town or Community Councils to grow and develop.

**4. The Review should have regard to other boundaries or designations that apply within a community or community ward.**

If there are to be changes to communities or community wards, there should be regard to other boundaries or designations that may apply, for example, Conservation Areas, National Park boundaries, the UNESCO World Heritage Site boundary, school catchment areas etc, and how, if at all, such changes may impact a Town or Community Council's relationship to

**these designated areas.**

**This Review should acknowledge and emphasise the need for boundary/communities to maintain co-terminus boundaries in synergy with those of strategic authorities operating within, and cross-boundary with, Torfaen to ensure consistency between political / service delivery boundaries and those administered by Aneurin Bevan University Health Board inter alia.**

## **Response from Croesyceiliog & Llanyravon Community Council**

**Council feels it would be helpful to know the membership of the community review team. Useful to see timeframes, but it is a little disappointing that ToR have reached community councils so late when the process started in late October.**

**Council hopes that review team members will arrange meetings with Leader, Chair, Clerk and any interested members to pass on comments.**

**Council asks for sight of the initial draft recommendations so as to check for accuracy, mistakes of fact, etc..**

**Council also asks for a final set of findings to be presented at a full Council meeting.**



## **Response from Cwmbran Community Council**

**Councillors considered the terms of reference, as provided and the presentation from Caroline Genever-Jones and offered the following response:-**

**The timeline for the review is impractical in that the Consultation period for initial proposals are due to end on 30th August 2023, with Torfaen and Town and Community Councils having recess in August thus reducing time for consideration and scrutiny by 4 weeks with no time at the beginning of September for Council or Committee scrutiny and sign off.**

**Given the significant amount of work and the need for Councillors to be able to be fully informed and engaged with the process, a named officer to support the process and the interaction with Community Councils and residents may be appropriate.**

**The Community Council would be interested in shaping the questions that would be put to wider consultation, is this possible.**

**While this is a statutory review with statutory aims, has consideration been given, as a subsidiary aim to increasing voter participation and turnout, given the low turnout and in some cases uncontested wards.**

**Given the level of impact potentially arising from changes, will there be speedy feedback available from Torfaen CBC to ensure representations that are made can be revised or adapted in the face of new information or emerging proposals.**

**Will a list of stakeholders be circulated as part of the review process.**

**The council is concerned that there is a danger of impacting smaller wards rather than larger ones.**

**Will accurate ward boundary maps be available in time to allow shaping of and consideration of any proposed changes.**

**The National Association of Local Councils is quoted on page 11, this is an England only body, with One Voice Wales being the analogous Welsh body.**

**Is the legislative competence for this review England only or does it come under devolved powers?**

**Also on page 11 Bullet points 1 and 2 appear to be contradictory with one saying**

- Ensure that a community is created with no fewer than 1,000 electors**

**And the other saying**

- Consider strong, evidenced based arguments to create a community that has fewer than 1,000 electors and more than 150 electors

On page 12 “In determining the boundaries between community wards the Council shall have regard to community identity and community interests in the area”.

Who is it that defines “Community Interests”?

Also, on Page 12 “the Council will also consider the benefit of merging existing community wards and consider the benefits this may bring to the community area particularly in terms of increasing their voice within the community.”

How does merging wards Increase the voice within the community?

Councillors were concerned of a general lack of clarity in the Terms of Reference and hope that when they are put to the wider stakeholder group and to residents, due consideration is given to making the process as simple and easy to engage with as possible

## **Response from Henllys Community Council**

**“ HCC welcomes the community review as it is very much aware of the disparity in size between the community councils in TCBC . This inevitably leads to very different levels of elector representation ”**

## **Response from Ponthir Community Council**

### **Ponthir Community Council Response to “TCBC Review of Communities and its Terms of Reference”**

**Ponthir Community Council supports the Terms of Reference described in the documentation we have received from TCBC.**

**Members are however concerned about the apparent reliance on population statistics which may not capture the true demographic of residents in Ponthir and Lower Llanfrechfa. As a major contributor to the TCBC Communities Initiative Strategy, its findings seem to indicate that an over reliance on “Big Data” does not paint a true picture of the needs of our area. Also, the recent Gwent Public Services Board’s Well Being Assessment Plan (the statutory requirement from the Well Being and Future Generations Act) did not consult with us and its Report just concentrated on the three urban towns in Torfaen – Cwmbran, Pontypool and Blaenavon. Just hitting numerical targets and relying on poorly consulted wellbeing plans will not enhance Ponthir and Lower Llanfrechfa, it will destroy it.**

**Members feel that the Review must have regard to and demonstrate the Welsh Government's policy on the Democratic Health of Community and Town Councils (April 2023) which highlights concerns about the low level of engagement between communities and councils. Ponthir CC has recently lost a long-standing Councillor, due to increased work commitments, and we are confident we will be able to replace him. We engage fully in our area with both village churches, Ponthir Church in Wales School and Ponthir Sports and Community Club. We support the new Trustees at Ponthir Village Hall and their newly established clubs and societies. We work with Ponthir WI, Llanfrechfa Walled Garden, Ponthir Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, TVA and Aneurin Bevan University Health Board. One of our Councillors is Chair of the Gwent Regional Partnership Board Citizen Panel.**

**We are very prominent on social media and produce a twice-yearly newsletter which we deliver to over eight hundred houses.**

**We also have a strong working relationship with our TCBC Councillor, Karl Gauden. We have collaborated with him on several projects since he was elected in May 2022.**

**Members are aware of The Welsh Government and One Voice Wales formation of a Democratic Health Task and Finish Group, which we will monitor and seek out best practice and innovative ideas for improving awareness and engagement between Ponthir and Lower Llanfrechfa residents and its well-established Community Council.**

**Members feel that the move towards a reduction in Councils will severely affect democracy through reduced representation in terms of voice and control. Ponthir residents currently have a voice, it would no doubt lead to more concerned residents if it loses that voice. Council meetings are regularly attended by members of the public who view the Community Council as their primary route for resolving issues with TCBC.**

**If Ponthir CC loses its status and existence, it will make any replacement less representative of the wider community it serves.**

**Fewer Council places will no doubt lead to less opportunities for people to get involved in local politics. This would severely affect the opportunity to engage with the younger generation, denying them a “voice for the future.”**

**Community Councillors are unsalaried and cost the taxpayer little. Their knowledge and expertise provide excellent value for money in the unique area of Ponthir and Lower Llanfrechfa.**

**Ponthir CC will always strive to increase awareness, engagement, and participation with our Council, setting the example to show people how easy and rewarding it is to get involved in your local community.**

**Ponthir CC has always prioritised what is best for our small community and budget, whether it has been poppies in November, Christmas lights or paying for a new playground, we are inclusive, accessible, and always will be.**

**Any review must be in step with Welsh Government’s ambition for Town and Community Councils to take on more responsibilities. We are keen to learn from best practice, which will allow us to grow and develop. Ponthir CC is proud to represent our residents and our authority. We are an active Council, using our networks such as Citizen Panel, to benefit our community.**

**We are not just a Community Council; we thrive on working together for the wellbeing and benefit of our community, now and for the future. Ponthir and Lower Llanfrechfa is a rural and village community, an identity that we, and TCBC need to preserve and cherish**

## **Response from Pontypool Community Council**

**Terms of Reference in relation to the Community Review were received and noted with no comments being offered.**



## CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

### REVIEW OF COMMUNITIES AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

1. What other facilities/way can the Council utilise to ensure extensive consultation is carried out with as wide an audience as possible?

**Provided adequate publicity for events is made the proposals are acceptable.**

2. Is the existing level of representation across Town and Community Councils in Torfaen appropriate?

**Given the discrepancies in ward size / elector representative ratios, a review is appropriate.**

3. Should a consistent approach be applied to the level of representation of electors throughout Torfaen?

**There may be an argument for retaining a discrepancy between Community Councils and Town Councils given the size and geographical spread of the former.**

4. What methods could the Council utilise to ensure fair levels of representation throughout Torfaen?

**Ensure that elector / member ratios are better distributed, particularly for Town Councils but it would be inappropriate to increase the size of any particular council.**

5. Would a banding system of urban and rural wards be a suitable system to apply to the levels of representation and what factors should be considered when categorising the wards?

**Yes: retain a differential between Community Councils and Town Councils.**

6. Should there be a minimum and / or maximum number of electors in order for a ward to be created?

**Yes. Maximum ward size of 1900 is suggested for Town Councils.**

7. Should there be a minimum and / or maximum number of electors in order for a council to be created?

**No: as there are arguments for retaining existing Councils.**

8. In what circumstances should a council area be warded? Should there be a minimum and / or maximum number of wards the council area should be split into?

**This will depend upon the elector / member ratio to be determined.**



9. Do you agree that where possible whole streets should be contained in a single ward?

**Yes.**

10. If Streets must be split, what is the best approach to dividing them effectively?

**The obvious differential topographical features e.g. respective side of the road / obvious cross roads.**

11. What factors should the Council consider when identifying whether a boundary is easily identifiable?

**As above.**

12. Are there any other statistics that the Council should consider when projecting the population estimates for this review?

**Responses to Terms of Reference Consultation – Public**