



## SPECIAL COUNCIL – 26TH SEPTEMBER 2012

**SUBJECT: COMMUNITY COUNCILS RISCA EAST AND RISCA WEST**

**REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE / RETURNING OFFICER**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek council approval for the electoral arrangements for the Community Councils of Risca East and Risca West and to make the necessary Order to establish said Community Councils.

### **2. LINKS TO STRATEGY**

- 2.1 The promotion of a culture of citizenship and involvement in decision making forms an important part of the community plan.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Local government Act 1972 provides that a Community Meeting of a community that does not have a separate community council may apply to the principal council within whose area it lies for an order establishing a council for the community.
- 3.2 Risca East and Risca West have been designated by the Local Government Boundary Commission as two separate community areas and as such both areas were required to satisfy the relevant requirements of the Act and the Local Government (Wales) measure.
- 3.3 At Community Meetings held on 6th September, 2011 for Risca East and Risca West the required number of residents were present and voted in favour of polls to be held to ask the electorate if community councils should be established to serve the two areas. The rules for the conduct of the poll are contained in The Parish and Community Meetings (Polls) rules 1987 and both polls took place on the 5th July, 2012. The electorate in both Risca East and Risca West voted in favour of community councils being established.
- 3.4 Consequently all the requirements necessary to establish the two community councils have been satisfied and the Orders applied for should now be made.

### **4. THE REPORT – ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS**

- 4.1 It is the responsibility of the principal council to determine the way in which the new community council's are constituted. This covers:-

- The date on which elections will be held
- The number of councillors to be elected to the new councils
- The division (or not) of the communities into wards for the purpose of electing councillors

- The number and boundaries of such wards
- The number of councillors to be elected for any such ward
- The name of any such ward

4.2 **Date of Election** – The Police and Crime Commissioner poll is due to be held on the 15th November, 2012. It would be appropriate to hold the first elections to the newly formed community councils on this day as costs can be shared between them and the Home Office. This timing would also allow the new community councils to set a community charge for 2013/14. Subsequent elections will revert to the normal cycle of county borough and community council elections. The new community councillors will therefore serve until May 2017.

4.3 **Number of Councillors** – Section 16 of the Local Government Act 1972 sets out that the number of Councillors shall not be less than 5. However, there is no maximum number and the Government's guidance is that each area should be considered on its own merits having regard to its population, geography and the pattern of communities. The broad pattern of existing council sizes, which have stood the test of time and the take up of seats at elections has also been considered.

4.4 **Warding Arrangements** – The council is required to determine whether the number or distribution of the local government electors in the communities would make a single election impracticable and whether or not it would be desirable that any areas of the communities be separately represented on the new community councils.

Much of both Risca East and Risca West are built-up areas and as such lend themselves to being warded. This model works well in the majority of Town / Community Councils in the county borough. Warding has the added advantage of allowing smaller less costly elections in the case of any casual vacancies arising.

Both community areas are currently divided into easily identified polling districts which residents and political parties are familiar with. These could provide the 'blueprint' for any proposed warding / boundary arrangements.

#### **RISCA WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Polling District	Proposed Ward Name	Electorate	No of Seats
ZA	DANYGRAIG	459	1
ZB & ZC	RISCA TOWN & FERNLEA	1432	3
ZD	PONTYMISTER LOWER	610	1
ZE	TY ISAF FIELDS	1506	3
		<b>4207</b>	<b>8</b>

#### **RISCA EAST COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Polling District	Proposed Ward Name	Electorate	No of Seats
ZF1/ZF2	PONTYMISTER TY SIGN	1789	3
ZG	TRENEWYDD	1587	3
ZH	PONTYMISTER UPPER	1270	2
		<b>4646</b>	<b>8</b>

## **5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The Council's EqIA process does not need to be applied.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 None – The cost of the elections would be met by the new community councils.

## **7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There are none

## **8. CONSULTATIONS**

- 8.1 Councillor D. Rees has confirmed that he would prefer the ward ZB & ZC to be called St Mary's and Fernlea and not Risca Town and Fernlea.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 That the council makes an order to establish Community Councils for the Risca East and Risca West community areas.
- 9.2 That elections take place for the new community councils on 15th November, 2012 and that subsequent elections revert to the normal local government cycle.
- 9.3 That the ward boundaries, names and number of community councillors be as set out in the tables in the body of this report

## **10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 Allows for efficient local government in the Risca East and Risca West Community Councils.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

- 11.1 This is a council function. Local Government Act 1972.

Author: Dave Beecham – Electoral Service Manager  
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Cllr Chris Forehead – Cabinet member for HR and Governance  
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