

# **Cross Party Working Group Final Report**

## **Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales: Review of Electoral Arrangements for the City of Newport**



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This report will be presented to Council on 30 April 2019 to agree the Council's recommendations to the Commission.

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## Executive Summary

The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales is reviewing the electoral arrangements for the City of Newport with a view to considering and formulating proposals for future arrangements. This is part of the Commission's programme to review all principal councils in Wales, in time for new arrangements to be introduced for the next local government elections in 2022. Newport is the 17th council to be reviewed.

The Commission has published initial consultation documents, showing the current elector to Councillor ratios in the City and how these compare to their Council Size Policy and ideal ratios. The Commission is inviting comments on these documents and the potential changes required to future electoral arrangements in Newport.

The 12-week consultation period began on 30 January 2019 and closes on 3 May 2019.

After this date, the Commission will prepare its draft proposals for Newport's electoral arrangements. This will be followed by a further statutory period of consultation before the Commission's final recommendations are made to Welsh Government.

A cross-party working group was set up to review the evidence and options for future electoral arrangements in Newport, and formulate a draft response to the Commission's initial consultation process.

## Summary of Recommendations

This is the final report of the working group. It includes the following recommendations to Council for consideration:

**Recommendation 1:** Council is asked to support the minor amendments to boundaries set out in the Minor Anomalies section of this report.

**Recommendation 2:** Council is asked to agree the preferred option for Llanwern:

- **Option 2a:** Move Llanwern Community into Ringland.
- **Option 2b:** Move Bishton Community Council area, comprising Bishton and Underwood Community Wards, into Langstone.

**Recommendation 3:** Council is asked to agree the preferred option for Rogerstone

- **Option 3a:** Create two new wards of Rogerstone West community ward (two Councillors) and combining Rogerstone North and East community wards (two Councillors)
- **Option 3b:** Create three new wards of Rogerstone West community ward (two Councillors), Rogerstone North community ward (one Councillor), and Rogerstone East community ward (one Councillor).

**Recommendation 4:** Council is asked to agree the preferred option for Stow Hill

- **Option 4a:** Add the “Riverside” area of Pillgwenlly to Stow Hill
- **Option 4b:** Add the Mon Bank area of Pillgwenlly to Stow Hill

**Recommendation 5:** Council is asked to agree the preferred option for Tredegar Park

- **Option 5a:** Merge Tredegar Park and Marshfield
- **Option 5b:** Add St Brides and Coedkernew Community Wards to Tredegar Park

**Recommendation 6:** Council is asked to agree the preferred option for Beechwood

- **Option 6a:** Retain three Councillors in Beechwood
- **Option 6b:** Reduce Beechwood ward to two Councillors

**Recommendation 7:** Council is asked to agree the preferred option for Bettws

- **Option 7a:** Retain three Councillors in Bettws
- **Option 7b:** Reduce Bettws ward to two Councillors

**Recommendation 8:** Council is asked to support the proposal to retain four representatives in Lliswerry, and agree the English spelling for this ward as Lliswerry and not Liswerry.

## **Working Group Arrangements**

### **Membership**

One nominee from each of the Council's political groups:

Labour:	Jane Mudd
Conservative:	David Fouweather
Newport Independents:	Janet Cleverly (to 9/4/19) / Kevin Whitehead (from 10/4/19)
Liberal Democrat:	Carmel Townsend

### **Terms of Reference**

Formulate and recommend a preferred option or options for a coordinated Council representation to the Boundary Commission as part of their initial consultation process:

1. Gather and review available data and other evidence
2. Invite submissions and interview key stakeholders
3. Consider options for changing electoral arrangements
4. Agree a final report for consultation with Democratic Services Committee and submission to Council.

Regarding proposal formation, the group was tasked with:

1. Establishing viable options for improving electoral parity within the statutory requirements and Commission policies.
2. If possible, identifying preferred options for presenting a single Council recommended scheme to the Commission. Alternatively, a series of evidenced options could be presented.

## **Methodology**

The working group held a series of meetings to consider the evidence supporting the review, and discuss and debate the different options.

Due to the limited time available to conduct this review, the group focused its attentions principally on options for the four "amber" wards with electoral parity variance over 25%:

- Llanwern
- Rogerstone
- Stow Hill
- Tredegar Park

In reviewing the feasible options for change, the group considered the following information previously provided to the Boundary Commission:

- Current population estimates and number of electors, and numbers of those eligible to vote

- A five year projection of population and elector numbers, including an explanation of the methodology used for these predictions
- Elector data for the last five years

The Intelligence Hub provided support and information through the Council's mapping software, and the group used the interactive maps during their meetings to model and view the different options. The maps allowed the group to drill down to household level, and review electoral / community / community ward boundaries, over-layed with other administrative boundaries (e.g. Lower Super Output Areas), and the location and details of major development areas.

For the first time, details of the electoral register were also entered onto the map system. This allowed the group to identify anomalies on the register, for example where properties have been registered in the wrong ward, or where boundaries have been drawn through streets rather than along natural boundaries.

The supporting officer team provided a series of modelled options for consideration by the group, including:

- The impact on current and projected variances of simply adding or subtracting a member from each ward
- The impact of merging or redrawing boundaries with adjoining wards
- Modelling suggestions put forward by group members and other consultees
- Providing outline maps of newly proposed boundaries, once the group had narrowed down the long list of options.

Where possible, existing Community and Community Ward boundaries were used to model these options.

## **Consultation**

At the start of the review, representations were sought from Group Leaders, Community Councils, and other key stakeholders. Group Leader comments were fed in through the working group representatives, and one additional submission was received from Llanwern Community Council, with comments reflected in this report.

The group's shortlist of options were presented to the Democratic Services Committee on 10 April 2019, with the group meeting again later that day to review the Committee's comments, and agree a final shortlist of options for presentation to Council.

The rest of this report details the main options considered, and the group's shortlist for consideration by Council.

## **Minor Anomalies**

As referenced above, the overlaying of the electoral register data on the boundary maps for the first time allowed the group to identify minor anomalies where registration requires updating, or a minor boundary change is needed.

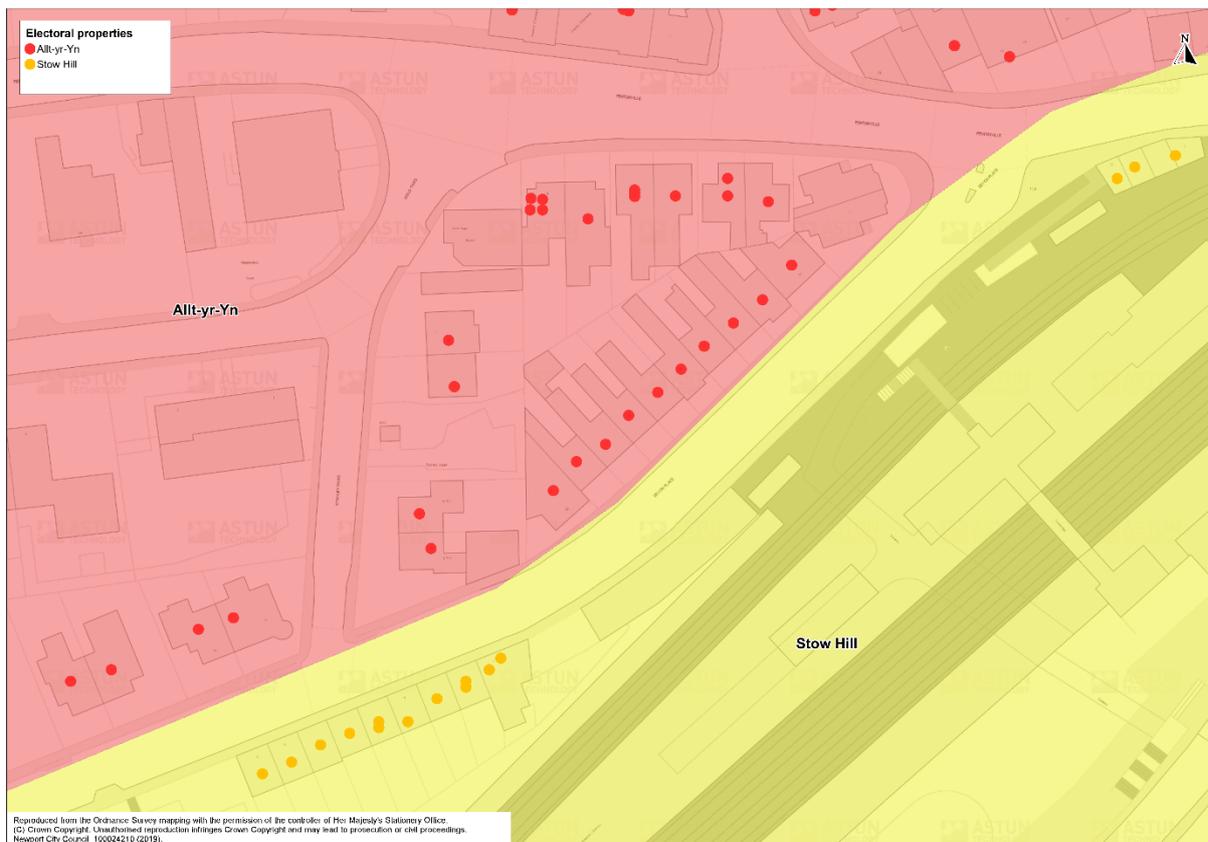
By colour coding the wards and the properties registered to them, the group identified a number of properties which had been registered in a different ward to that in which they were located. These were predominantly errors in the register which will be corrected at the next canvass.

In some cases, the anomalies found require boundaries to be amended. The Boundary Commission has advised that they would not take minor amendments to boundaries into consideration as part of this review, however the group agreed that this would be a missed opportunity, especially given the Commission's aim to provide "effective and convenient local government" and "coherent electoral wards with common interests and good internal communications links".

This proposal was supported by the Democratic Services Committee as a sensible approach.

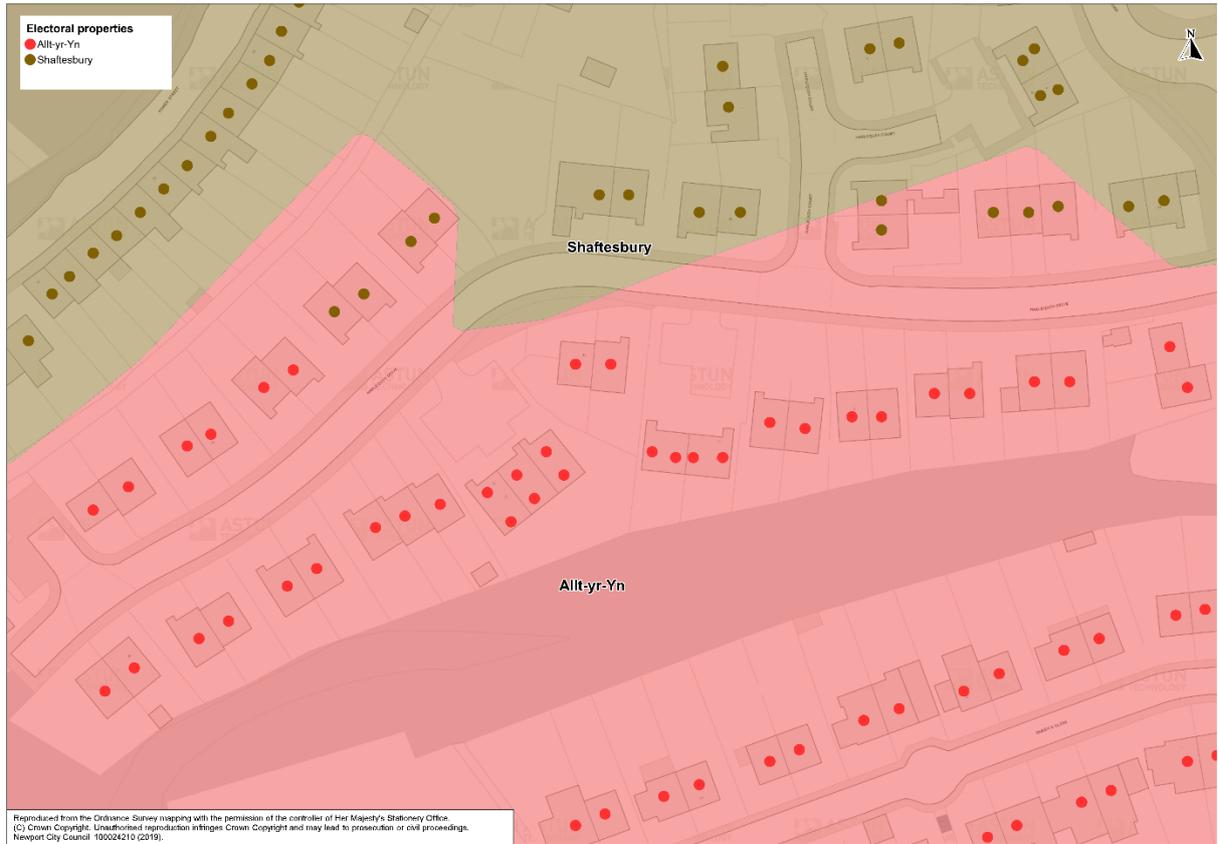
The following minor amendments are therefore put forward for consideration.

### Devon Place / Mill Street:



Properties on the south side of Mill Street and Devon Place are registered in Stow Hill, but are separated from the rest of that ward by the railway line. The group proposes moving these properties to Allt-yr-yn, with the rest of their local community. This proposal affects 17 properties and 11 current electors.

## Harlequin Drive

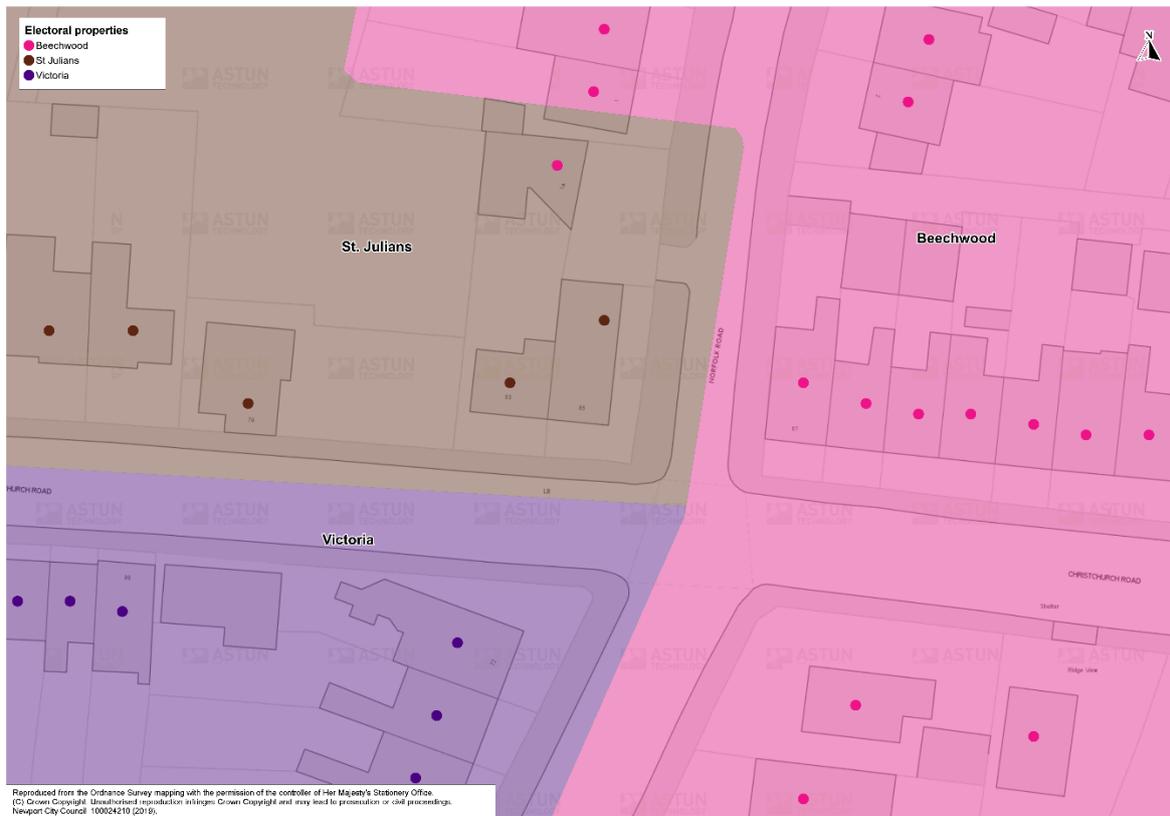


On the electoral register, properties on Harlequin Drive are divided between Allt-yr-yn and Shaftesbury, with some being registered in the wrong ward according to the current boundaries. The group considered three options for this group of properties:

1. Correct the anomalies on the register where 9 properties are located in Allt-yr-yn but registered in Shaftesbury;
2. Move all of Harlequin Drive (50 properties / 71 current electors) into Shaftesbury; or
3. Add all of the Barrack Hill area (330 properties / 513 current electors) into Allt-yr-yn

The group agreed that option 2 – move all of Harlequin Drive into Shaftesbury – was the most sensible option, given the natural boundary of green space dividing that area from the rest of Allt-yr-yn, and the physical connection and community ties with the rest of the neighbouring streets which all sit in Shaftesbury.

## 1a Norfolk Road



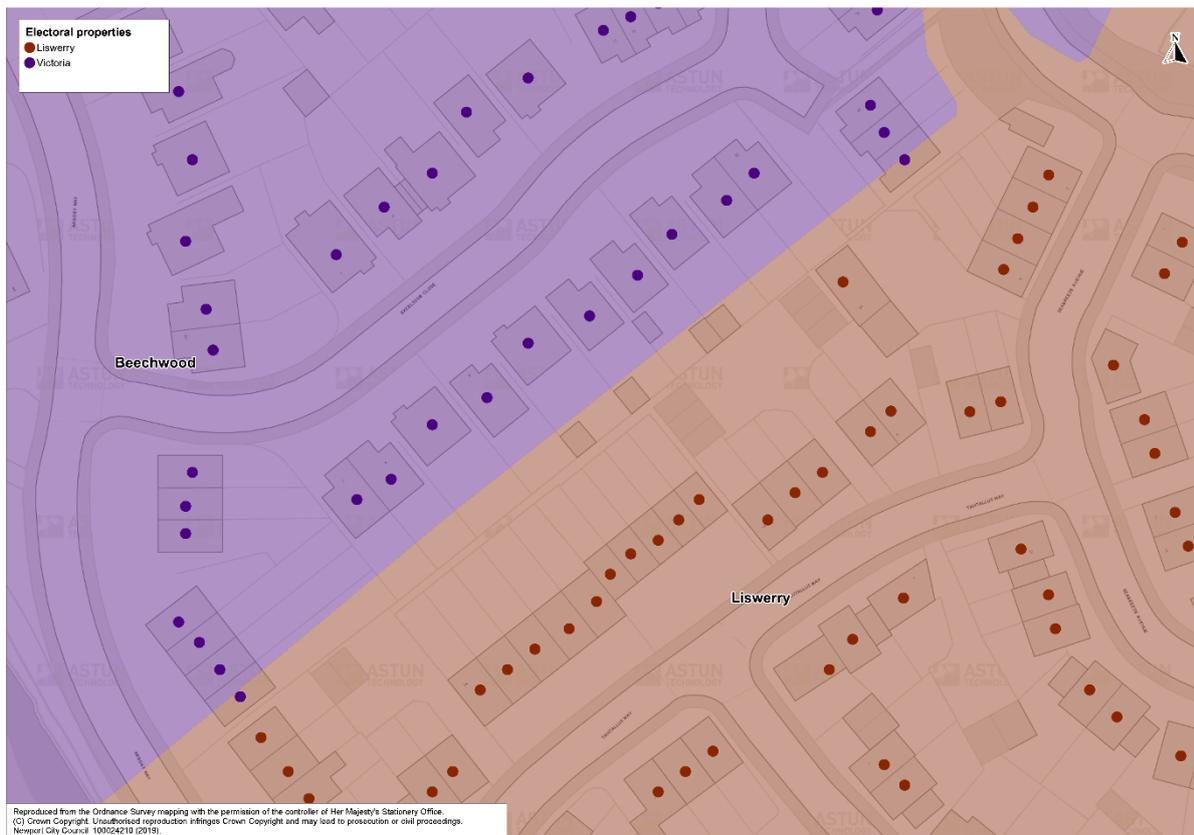
This property sits in St Julian's but is registered in Beechwood. Rather than correct this error on the register, the group agreed that the more sensible option was to move the boundary to include 1a Norfolk Road in Beechwood, alongside 1 Norfolk Road and the rest of that street.

## 2/4/6/8/10/12 Renoir Road



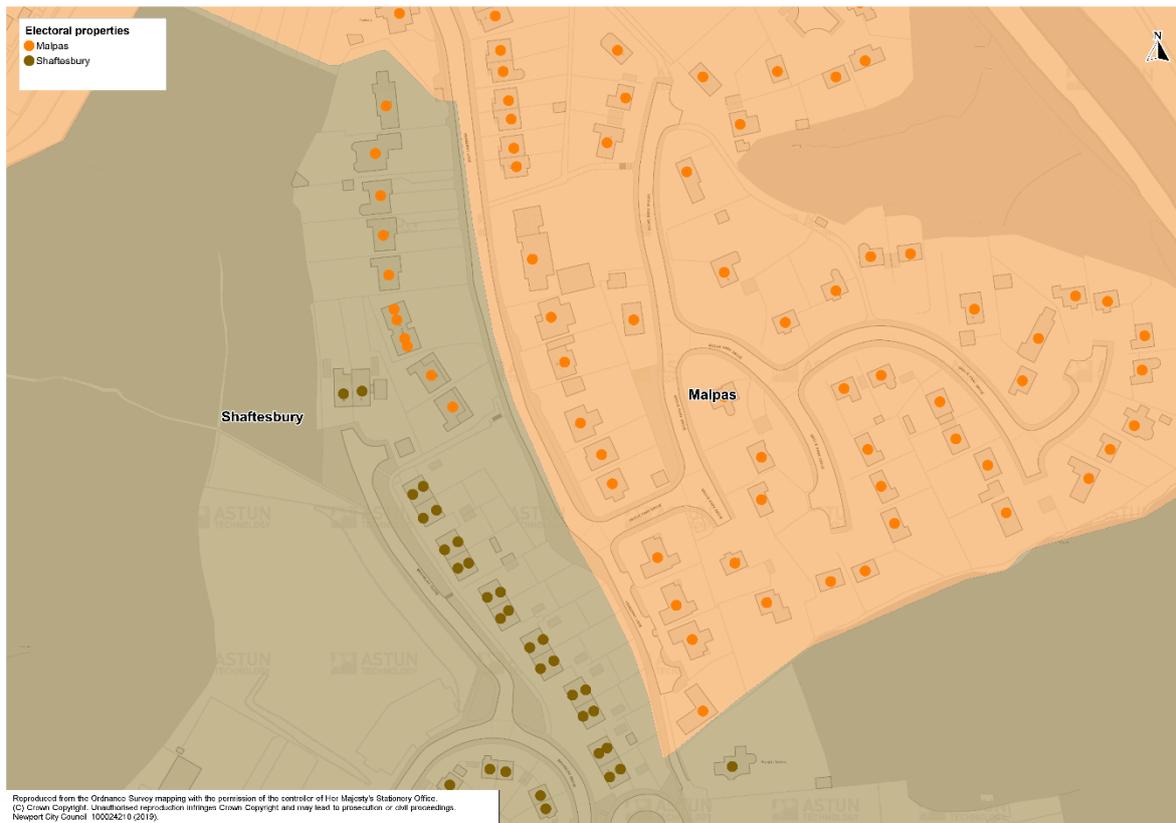
The above properties are registered in Caerleon. They are separated from the rest of Caerleon by a large expanse of green space, and the group agreed that all of this road was clearly in Beechwood with regard to both geographical location and community ties. The group therefore recommends that the boundary is moved to incorporate all of Renoir Road in Beechwood. The proposal affects 6 properties and 7 current electors.

## 81 Argosy Way and 22 Excelsior Close



Due to new housing developments, the boundary between Liswerry and Victoria runs through the middle of these properties. The group therefore recommends that the boundary is moved slightly to include both these properties fully in the Victoria ward.

## 18-38 Yewberry Lane (evens)



All of Yewberry Lane is registered in Malpas, but a small section of this road actually sits in Shaftesbury ward. Rather than correct this as an anomaly on the register, the group agreed to recommend that the boundary is moved to incorporate all of Yewberry Lane in the Malpas ward. These houses sit naturally in Malpas both in geographical and community terms. The road is a dead end which is accessed through the Malpas ward only. Likewise, the Brynglas Close houses they back on to are situated on a dead end which is accessed from the Shaftesbury ward only. This proposal affects 11 properties and 21 current electors.

**Recommendation 1: Council is asked to support the minor amendments to boundaries set out above.**

## Llanwern

This ward represents the largest projected growth area of the city, with major expansion underway in the Glan Llyn development, as well as further significant development at the Cot Hill site. Both these developments affect the Llanwern community of the ward. The ward is split into four community council areas, with only Bishton being further split into community wards.

Simply adding an additional councillor in Llanwern would push the current ratios into over-representation by 28% variance, so a number of alternative solutions were considered by the group, including options affecting adjoining Lliswerry, Langstone and Ringland wards.

A representation was received during the review from Llanwern Community Council which is summarised below:

**Reduction of Members on Newport City Council** – clearly with just one Llanwern Ward member, reduction is not an option.

**Equalisation of Wards** - To reflect the escalation in the Llanwern Ward as a consequence of the Eastern Newport Expansion Plan and reduce the pressure on its member, a realignment along the following lines is put forward for consideration:

- (i) Transfer Glan Lyn to Nash Community Council part of the Liswerry ward.
- (ii) Transfer the Llanmartin / Underwood element of Bishton Community Council to Langstone; Transfer the Bishton element to Llanwern Community Council, to form Llanwern with Bishton Community Council.
- (iii) With the Redrow development remaining with Llanwern Community Council.

As a consequence, natural boundaries would be maintained/improved – Glan Lyn to the North by the London/South Wales railway line, currently the railway line is a natural barrier to integration with Llanwern Village; Llanwern to the South by the London –South Wales Railway line and the A48 (southern distributor Road) and Llanmartin/Underwood by the M4 Flyover Road. In addition it would significantly increase the housing stock of Nash which would potentially increase revenues for that Community Council to counteract the recent loss of the concurrent monies.

These options were also modelled and considered by the working group.

The group distilled the long list of possibilities in this ward to two feasible options within the brief of this review:

- a. Move Llanwern Community to Ringland
- b. Move Bishton Community to Langstone

Democratic Services Committee reviewed these options on 10 April and were supportive of the Bishton option. The Committee was of the view that transferring Bishton to Langstone was a logical move for a distinct community area which could feasibly sit in either Langstone or Llanwern. This would also leave the major growth area within the Llanwern Community and Electoral Ward, with a single member and therefore opportunity for additional representation to be added in the future. The Committee was not supportive of the Ringland option and raised concerns that this would put additional pressure on the Ringland area, and would put the major development areas within an existing three member ward with no opportunity for future increase.

While taking on board the Committee's comments, the group agreed to retain the Ringland option within this report to give Council an opportunity to review both of these options.

Llanwern Electoral Ward	No of Councillors		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
	1	1	3,201	14,283
<i>Llanwern Community</i>			1,233	-
<i>Bishton Community</i>			1,529	-
• Bishton Community Ward			138	-
• Underwood Community Ward			1,391	-
<i>Goldcliff Community</i>			274	-
<i>Redwick Community</i>			165	-

Direction of travel:

- 2019 under-represented by 43% variance from ideal councillor to elector ratio
- 2024 over-represented by 399% variance from ideal councillor to elector ratio

Both current and projected figures are outside of the Boundary Commission's allowed variances so change is required.

#### Option a: Move Llanwern Community to Ringland

Recommend moving the Llanwern Community Council area into Ringland

This would change the direction of travel for the remainder of the existing Llanwern ward as follows:

- 2019 over-represented by 18% variance from ideal councillor to elector ratio
- 2024 – community ward projections not available, but no significant developments expected outside Llanwern Community Ward area, so figures for the remainder of this ward are likely to remain stable.

#### Option b: Move Bishton Community to Langstone

Recommend moving the Bishton Community from Llanwern to Langstone.

This would change the direction of travel for Llanwern as follows:

- 2019 over-represented by 25% variance from ideal councillor to elector ratio
- 2024 – community ward projections not available, but exponential growth expected in the Llanwern community ward area means this ward is still expected to be under-represented in 5 years' time.

Current figures within Boundary Commission's allowed variances. Direction of travel towards greater electoral parity, but with significant developments at Glan Llyn and Cot Hill projected to result in under-representation by 2024.

<b>Option a: Move Llanwern Community to Ringland</b> Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	1,968	Variance	-12%
<b>Option b: Move Bishton Community to Langstone</b> Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	1,810	Variance	-18%

Option a for Llanwern would have the following impact on Ringland ward:

Ringland Electoral Ward	No of Councillors		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
		3	3	5,952

Direction of travel:

- 2019 over-represented by 11% variance from ideal councillor to elector ratio
- 2024 over-represented by 23% variance from ideal councillor to elector ratio

Both current and projected figures within Boundary Commission's allowed variances. However, Ringland adjoins Llanwern, which requires changes that may impact upon Ringland.

**Status Quo**

No changes are put forward. Current and projected figures are within allowed tolerances for over-representation.

**Move Llanwern Community Ward to Ringland**

This would change the direction of travel for Ringland as follows:

- 2019 under-represented by 7% variance from ideal councillor to elector ratio
- 2024 – community ward projections not available, but significant development in the Llanwern Community Council area indicates a direction of travel towards greater under-representation.

Current figures are within Boundary Commission's allowed variances. Projected figures would likely place the ward within the "red" category as Llanwern is currently.

<b>Status Quo option:</b> Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	1,984	Variance	-11%
<b>Llanwern option:</b> Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	2,395	Variance	7%

While option b for Llanwern would have the following impact on Langstone ward:

Langstone Electoral Ward	No of Councillors		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
		2	2	3,750
<i>Langstone Community</i>			2,776	-
• Langstone Community Ward			2,359	-
• Llandevaud Community Ward			417	-
<i>Penhow Community</i>			636	-
<i>Llanvaches Community</i>			338	-

Direction of travel:

- 2019 over-represented by 16% variance from ideal councillor to elector ratio
- 2024 over-represented by 30% variance from ideal councillor to elector ratio

Current figures are within Boundary Commission's allowed variances. Projected figures place the ward in the "amber" category.

### Status Quo

No changes are put forward. Current figures are within allowed tolerances for over-representation.

### Add Bishton Community to Langstone

This would change the direction of travel as follows:

- 2019 under-represented by 18% variance from ideal councillor to elector ratio
- 2024 – community ward projections not available, but Langstone projected figures plus Bishton current figures indicates under-representation by 3% variance

With both figures within Boundary Commission's allowed variances. Direction of travel towards greater electoral parity.

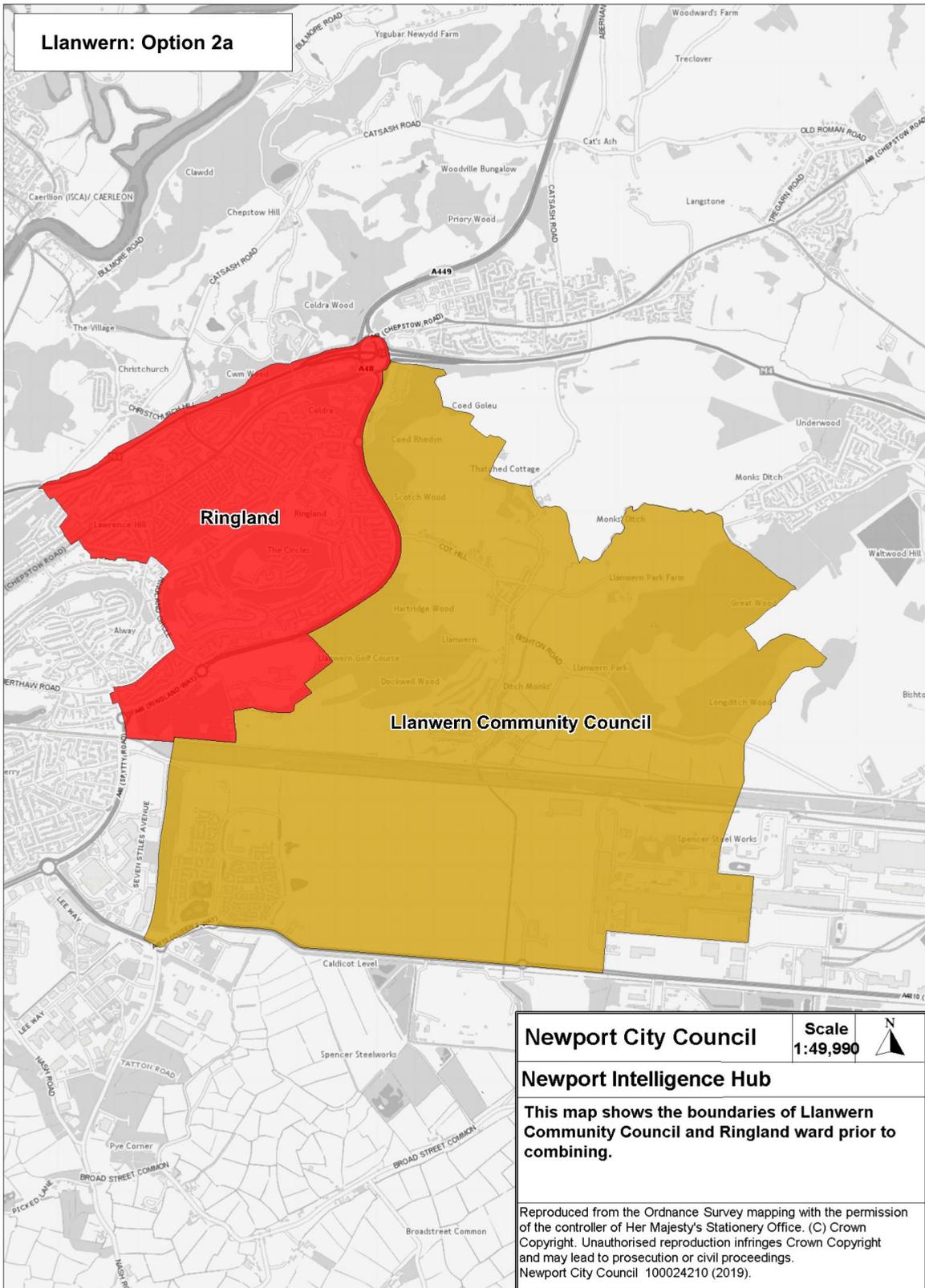
<b>Status quo option:</b> Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	1,875	Variance	-16%
<b>Bishton option:</b> Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	2,570	Variance	15%

**Recommendation 2: Council is asked to agree the preferred option for Llanwern**

**Option 2a: Move Llanwern Community into Ringland.**

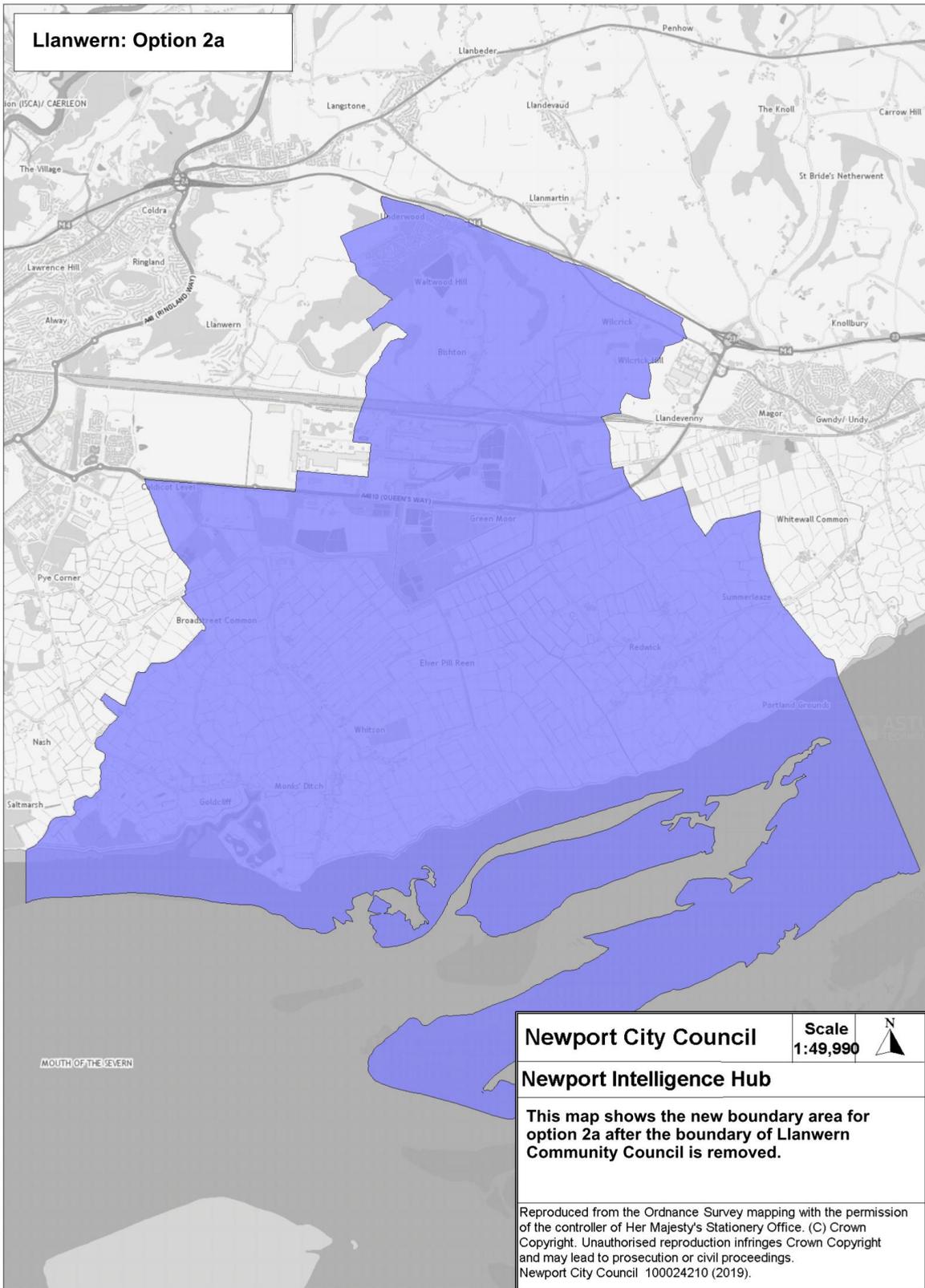
**Option 2b: Move Bishton Community Council area, comprising Bishton and Underwood Community Wards, into Langstone.**

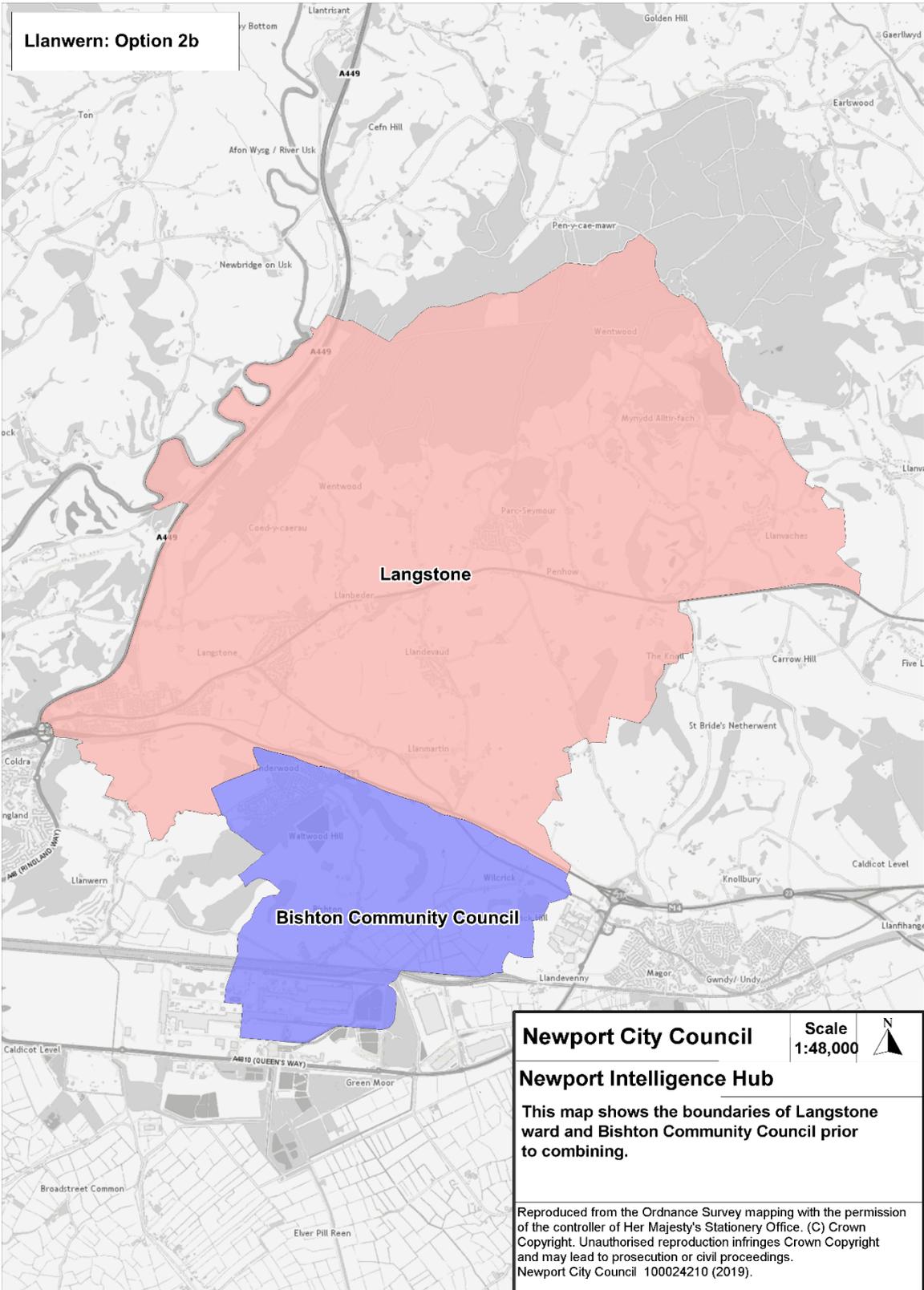
**Llanwern: Option 2a**

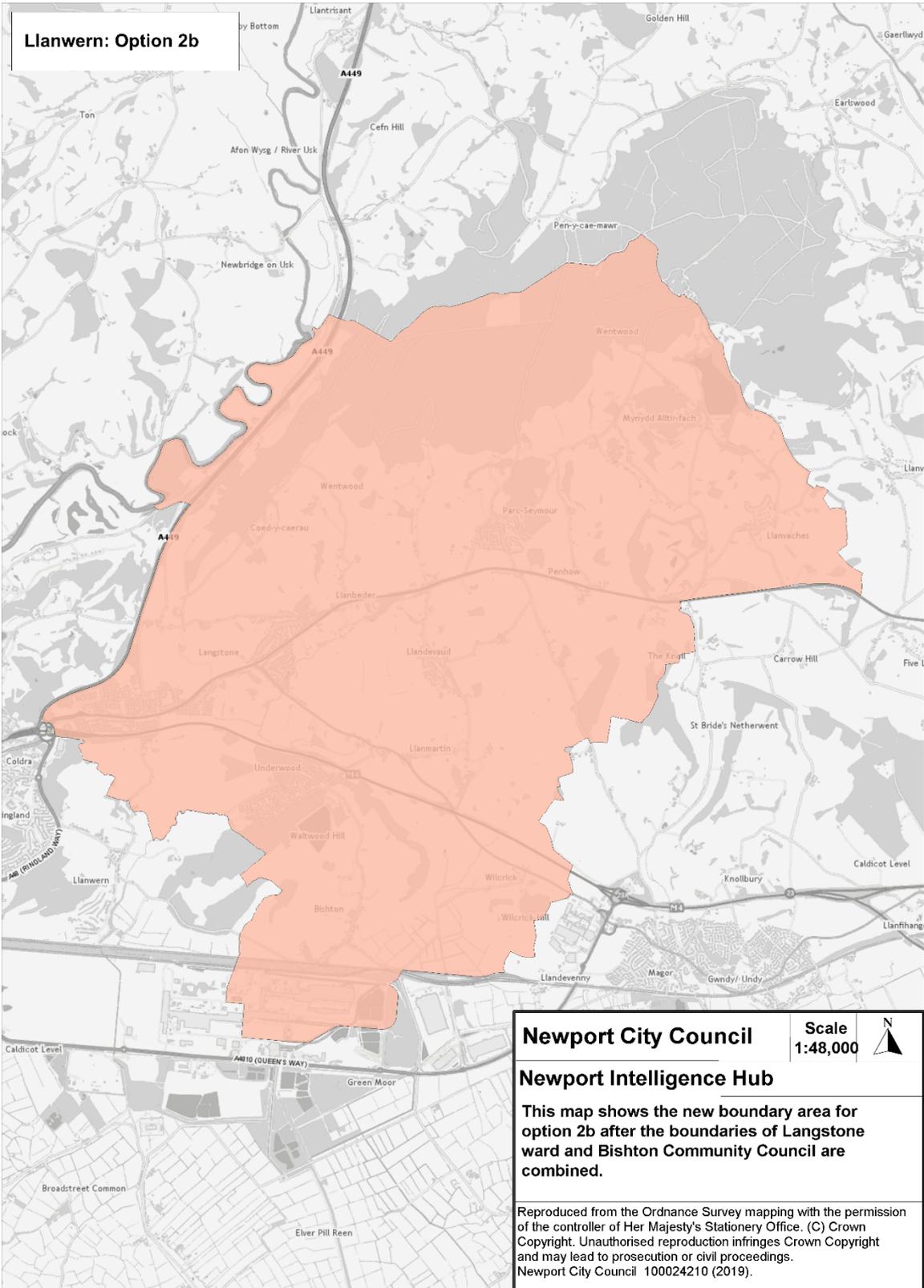


<b>Newport City Council</b>	<b>Scale</b> 1:49,990	
<b>Newport Intelligence Hub</b>		
<b>This map shows the boundaries of Llanwern Community Council and Ringland ward prior to combining.</b>		
<small>Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. (C) Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Newport City Council 100024210 (2019).</small>		

# Llanwern: Option 2a







**Llanwern: Option 2b**

**Newport City Council**      Scale 1:48,000 

**Newport Intelligence Hub**

**This map shows the new boundary area for option 2b after the boundaries of Langstone ward and Bishton Community Council are combined.**

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## Rogerstone

This ward is currently under-represented, although direction of travel is towards greater electoral parity according to the 2024 projected figures.

Adding an additional Councillor to the ward corrects the current figures and places the ward in the “green” category – so close to ideal ratios. However, the Boundary Commission will not consider any new proposals for four member wards. Rogerstone is already warded, so the group considered two options of a two or three ward split. All options returned as “green” on the electoral variances.

The Democratic Services Committee discussed both options and preferred the two ward option which would combine the North and East wards into a two member ward, and leave the West ward as a standalone two member ward. The Committee view was against the principle of single member wards due to the pressure that places on a single elected representative. The Committee had a clear preference for multi-member wards where possible, and the additional resilience that provides for the individuals elected.

The group noted the Committee’s preference but agreed to put both options forward for Council to consider.

Rogerstone Electoral Ward	No of Councillors		Electorate		
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected	
	3	2+1+1 or 2+2	8,859	9,322	
<i>Rogerstone Community</i>			8,859	9,322	
• Rogerstone East			2,365	-	
• Rogerstone North			2,423	-	
• Rogerstone West			4,071	-	
Direction of travel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2019 under-represented by 32% variance from ideal councillor to elector ratio</li> <li>- 2024 under-represented by 8% variance from ideal councillor to elector ratio</li> </ul> Current figures are outside of the Boundary Commission’s allowed variances so change is required. Projected figures are within allowed variances.					
<b>Option a: Two Ward Split</b>  Combine Rogerstone East and Rogerstone North Community Wards into a two member ward. Make Rogerstone West a two member ward.  Projected figures not available.					
<b>Option b: Three Ward Split</b>  Make Rogerstone West a two member ward. Make Rogerstone East and Rogerstone North into two single member wards.  Projected figures not available.					
<b>Option a: Two Ward Split</b>		East & North	2,394	Variance	7%
Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio		West	2,036		-8%

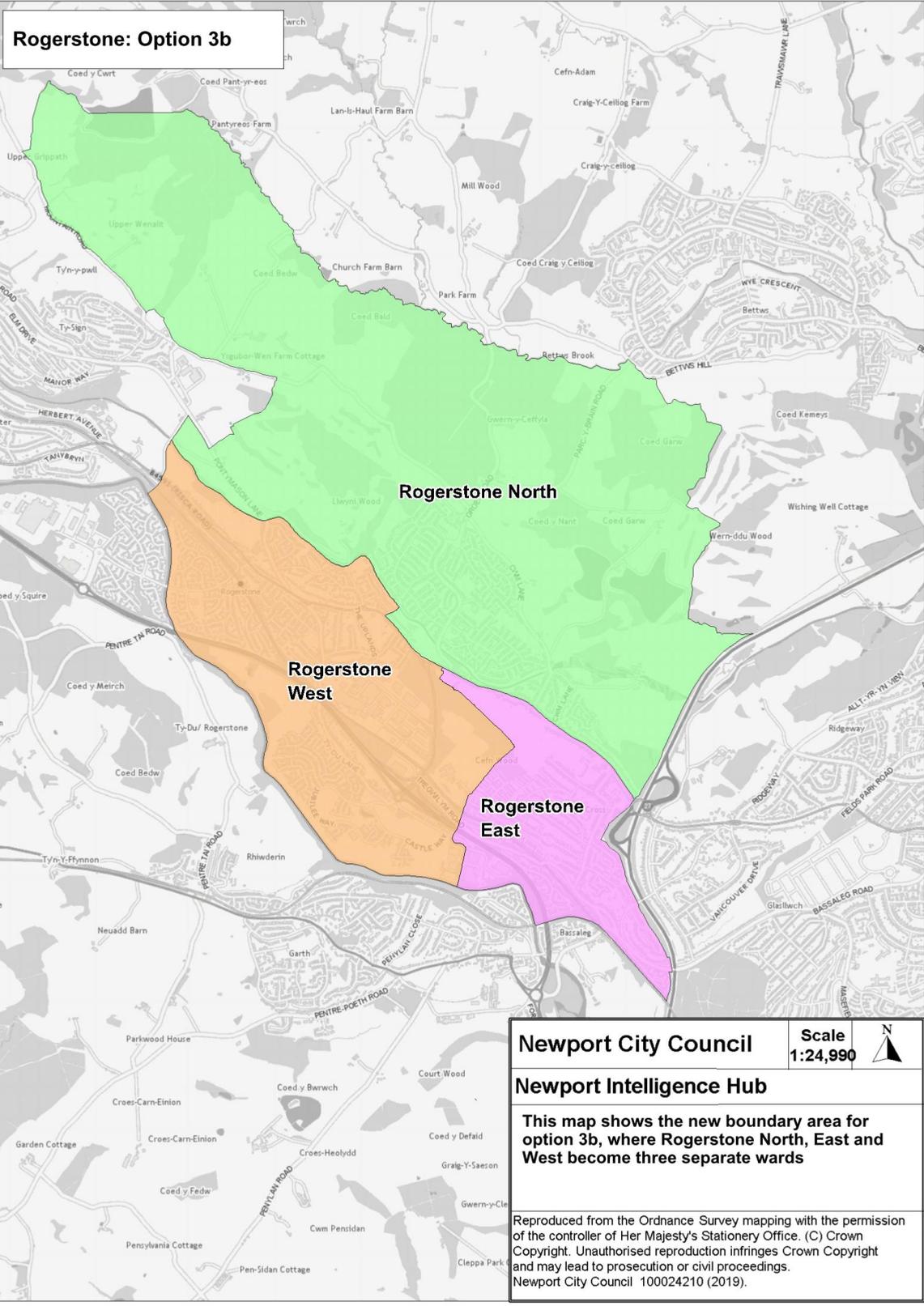
<b>Option b: Three Ward Split</b> Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	East	2,365	Variance	5%
	North	2,423		8%
	West	2,036		-8%

**Recommendation 3: Council is asked to agree the preferred option for Rogerstone**

**Option 3a: Create two new wards of Rogerstone West community ward (two Councillors) and combining Rogerstone North and East community wards (two Councillors)**

**Option 3b: Create three new wards of Rogerstone West community ward (two Councillors), Rogerstone North community ward (one Councillor), and Rogerstone East community ward (one Councillor).**





## Stow Hill

Stow Hill is currently over-represented according to the Boundary Commission's council size policy. In discussing the options for Stow Hill, both the working group and the Democratic Services Committee raised concerns about the rationale for these calculations, given the particular characteristics of Stow Hill as a city centre ward. As demonstrated by the Commission's existing arrangements table, Stow Hill has a higher than average proportion of residents eligible to vote but not registered. It also covers the commercial centre of the city, with an increasing transfer of commercial to private dwellings in that area. Whilst not a factor in the Commission's figures, Members also argued that this area has a higher level than others of population not eligible to vote, but nevertheless causing additional pressure on the local members serving that ward.

A simple subtraction of one member for Stow Hill pushes the figures too far into under-representation, so the group considered a series of proposals looking at neighbouring wards and different developments.

Options looking towards Victoria were discounted due to the clear boundary of the river between those two communities. Any changes proposed across the river, while possible and within the Commission's rules, would also affect the parliamentary boundary already in place which the group felt was easily recognisable and logical.

Options looking towards neighbouring Gaer and Allt-yr-yn were discounted because those wards are currently "green" and projected to remain stable. Another option combining Stow Hill with Shaftesbury to the North was discounted because, although the numbers worked, there are very limited geographical and community links between those two areas.

The preferred options therefore looked to links between Stow Hill and Pillgwenlly as the two main city centre wards. This also presents an opportunity to improve the current and increasing under-representation in Pillgwenlly.

Following consultation with the Democratic Services Committee, the working group agreed two options for consideration by Council, both proposing an increase to the area of Stow Hill and retaining two members in each ward.

A further option proposing a reduction in Stow Hill to a single member and an increase in Pillgwenlly to three numbers was discounted due to concerns from the Democratic Services Committee regarding the feasibility of a single member representing the city centre, and the pressure on the Pillgwenlly members by expanding what is already a very busy ward.

Option 4b relating to the Monbank development was originally discounted by the working group but the Democratic Services Committee requested that this be reconsidered as a feasible option. There are two development sites in this area – Monbank is already built and populated, whereas the adjoining Whiteheads site is yet to be developed. The group's recommendation is for just the Monbank area to be added to Stow Hill, but both sites are shown on the maps below for illustrative purposes.

In both the working group and the Democratic Services Committee, opinion was split on which would be the most feasible option for this area. Advocates for the Monbank option felt that this was a more sensible geographical configuration, and Monbank was a self-contained development which would be a logical extension of Stow Hill to the South. Advocates for the "Riverside" option argued that this extension of Stow Hill was in line with the plans for regeneration of this area, and this was a self-contained area which looked towards the city centre in terms of services and community.

Stow Hill Electoral Ward	No of Councillors		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
	2	2	3,290	4,499

Direction of travel:

- 2019 over-represented by 26% variance from ideal councillor to elector ratio
- 2024 over-represented by 21% variance from ideal councillor to elector ratio

Current figures are outside of the Boundary Commission's allowed variances so change is required. Projected figures are just within allowed variances.

**Option a: Add "Riverside" area of Pillgwenlly to Stow Hill**

Move the section of land between Usk Way and the river, down to the SDR, from Pillgwenlly into Stow Hill.

This would change the direction of travel for expanded Stow Hill as follows:

- 2019 over-represented by 14% variance from ideal councillor to elector ratio
- 2024 – sub-ward projections not available, but projected Stow Hill plus current Riverside figures indicates over-representation by 12% variance

With both figures within Boundary Commission's allowed variances. Direction of travel towards greater electoral parity.

**Option b: Add Monbank area of Pillgwenlly to Stow Hill**

This would change the direction of travel for expanded Stow Hill as follows:

- 2019 over-represented by 8% variance from ideal councillor to elector ratio
- 2024 – sub-ward projections not available, but projected Stow Hill plus current Monbank figures indicates over-representation by 7% variance.

With both figures within Boundary Commission's allowed variances. Direction of travel towards greater electoral parity.

<b>Option a: Stow Hill + Riverside</b> Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	1,914	Variance	-14%
<b>Option b: Stow Hill + Monbank</b>	2,050	Variance	-8%

These options would have the following impact upon Pillgwenlly ward:

Pillgwenlly Electoral Ward	No of Councillors		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
	2	2	5,099	8,902

Direction of travel:

- 2019 under-represented by 14% variance from ideal councillor to elector ratio
- 2024 under-represented by 55% variance from ideal councillor to elector ratio

Current figures are within Boundary Commission's allowed variances. Projected figures place the ward just within the "red" category.

**Add "Riverside" area of Pillgwenlly to Stow Hill**

This would change the direction of travel for reduced Pillgwenlly as follows:

- 2019 under-represented by 2% variance from ideal councillor to elector ratio
- 2024 – sub-ward projections not available, but projected Pillgwenlly minus current Riverside figures indicates under-representation by 48% variance

With current figures within Boundary Commission’s allowed variances. Projected figures would place reduced Pillgwenlly ward in the “amber” category. Direction of travel towards lesser electoral parity.

**Add Monbank area to Stow Hill**

This would change the direction of travel for reduced Pillgwenlly as follows:

- 2019 over-represented by 3% variance from ideal councillor to elector ratio
- 2024 – sub-ward projections not available. Projected Pillgwenlly minus current Monbank figures indicates under-representation by 41% variance, however this would depend on how much of the Monbank area was added to Stow Hill – with further growth also expected at the adjoining Whiteheads site, this together with Monbank makes up a significant part of the projected growth in Pillgwenlly, and therefore skews these figures.

Current figures would be within Boundary Commission’s allowed variances.

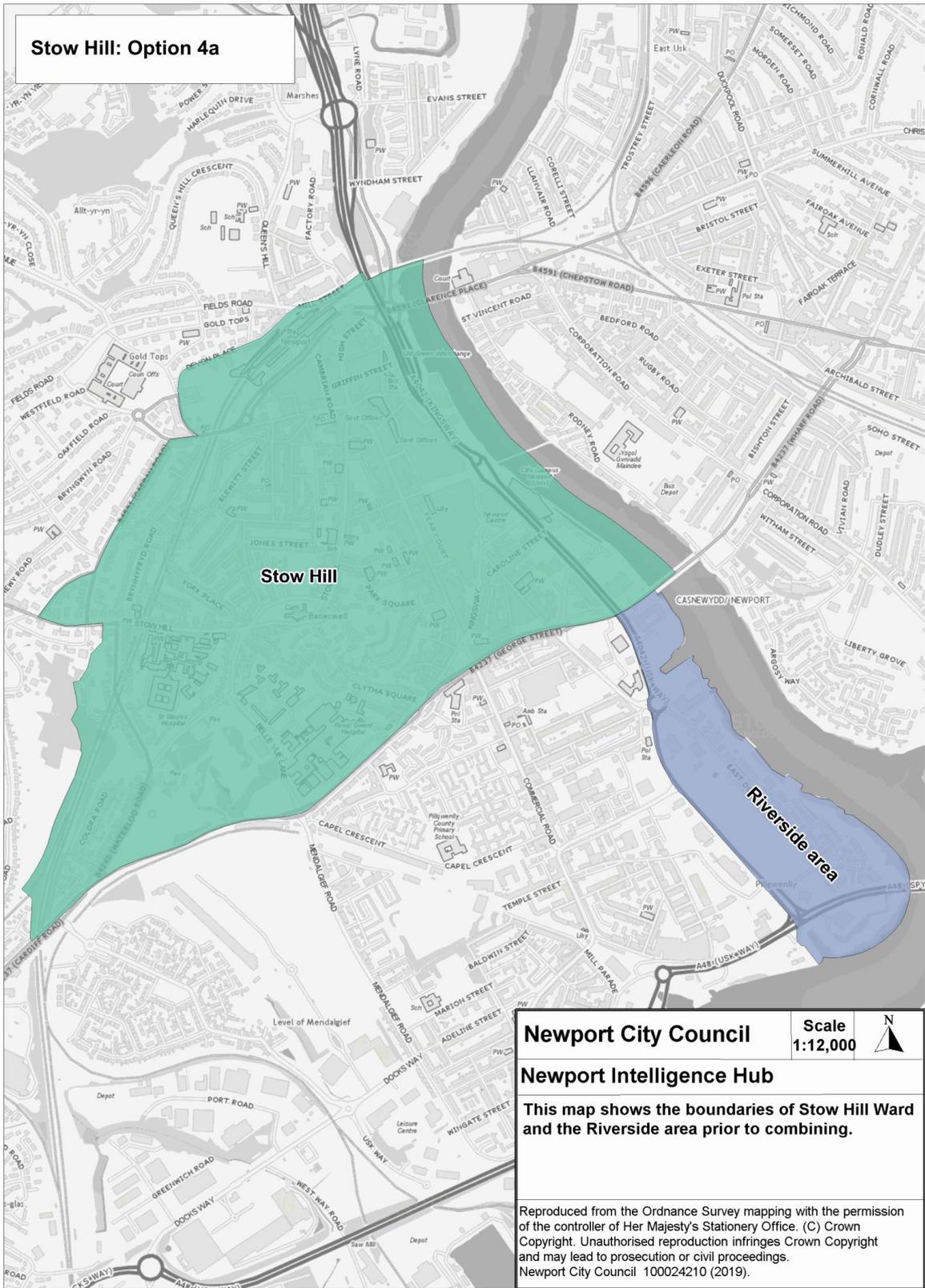
<b>Move Riverside to Stow Hill</b> Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	2,281	Variance	2%
<b>Move Monbank to Stow Hill</b> Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	2,144	Variance	-3%

**Recommendation 4: Council is asked to agree the preferred option for Stow Hill**

**Option 4a: Add the “Riverside” area of Pillgwenlly to Stow Hill**

**Option 4b: Add the Monbank area of Pillgwenlly to Stow Hill**

**Stow Hill: Option 4a**



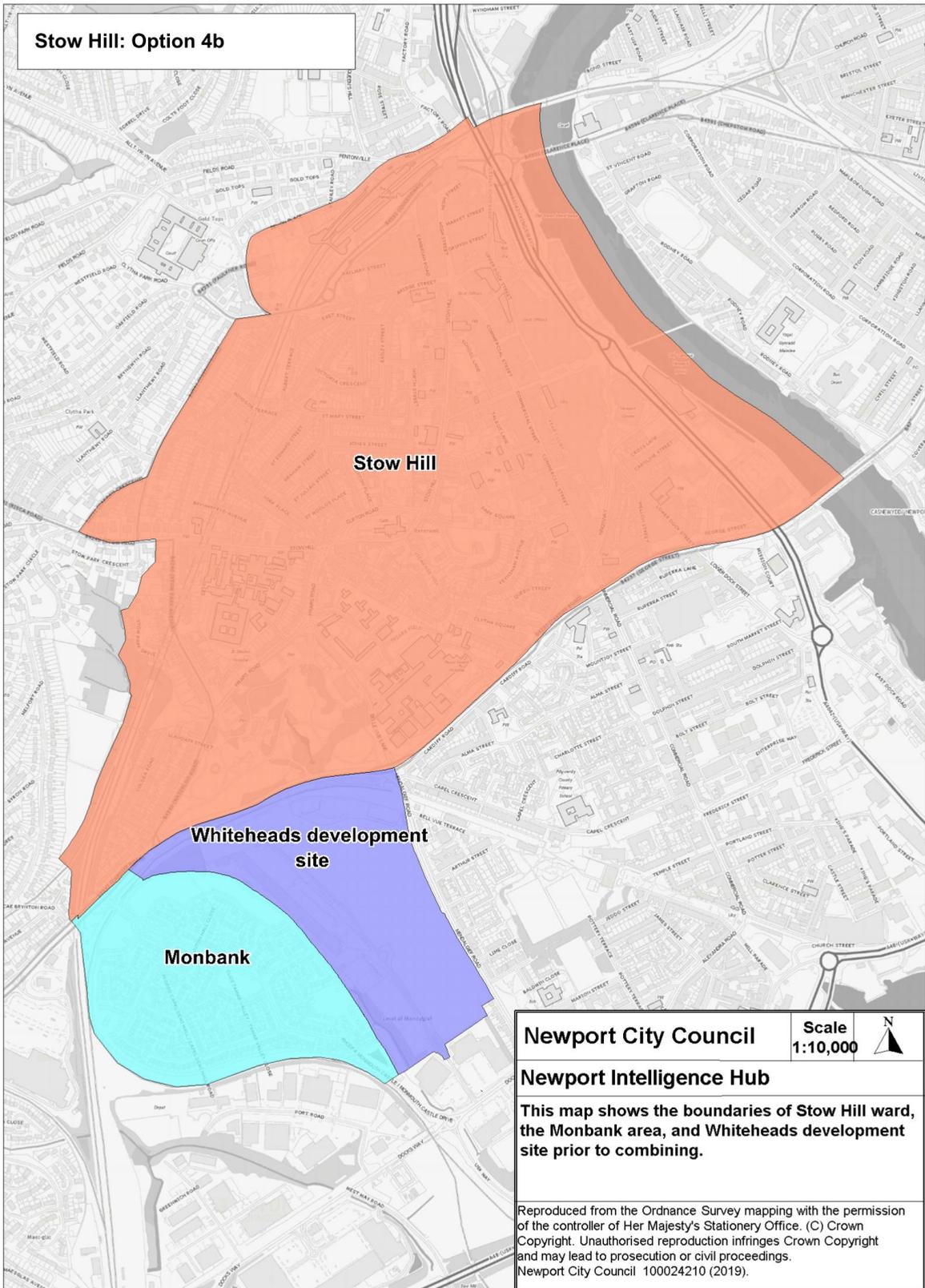
**Newport City Council**      **Scale** 1:12,000      

**Newport Intelligence Hub**

**This map shows the boundaries of Stow Hill Ward and the Riverside area prior to combining.**

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**Stow Hill: Option 4b**



**Stow Hill**

**Whiteheads development site**

**Monbank**

**Newport City Council**

**Scale**  
**1:10,000**

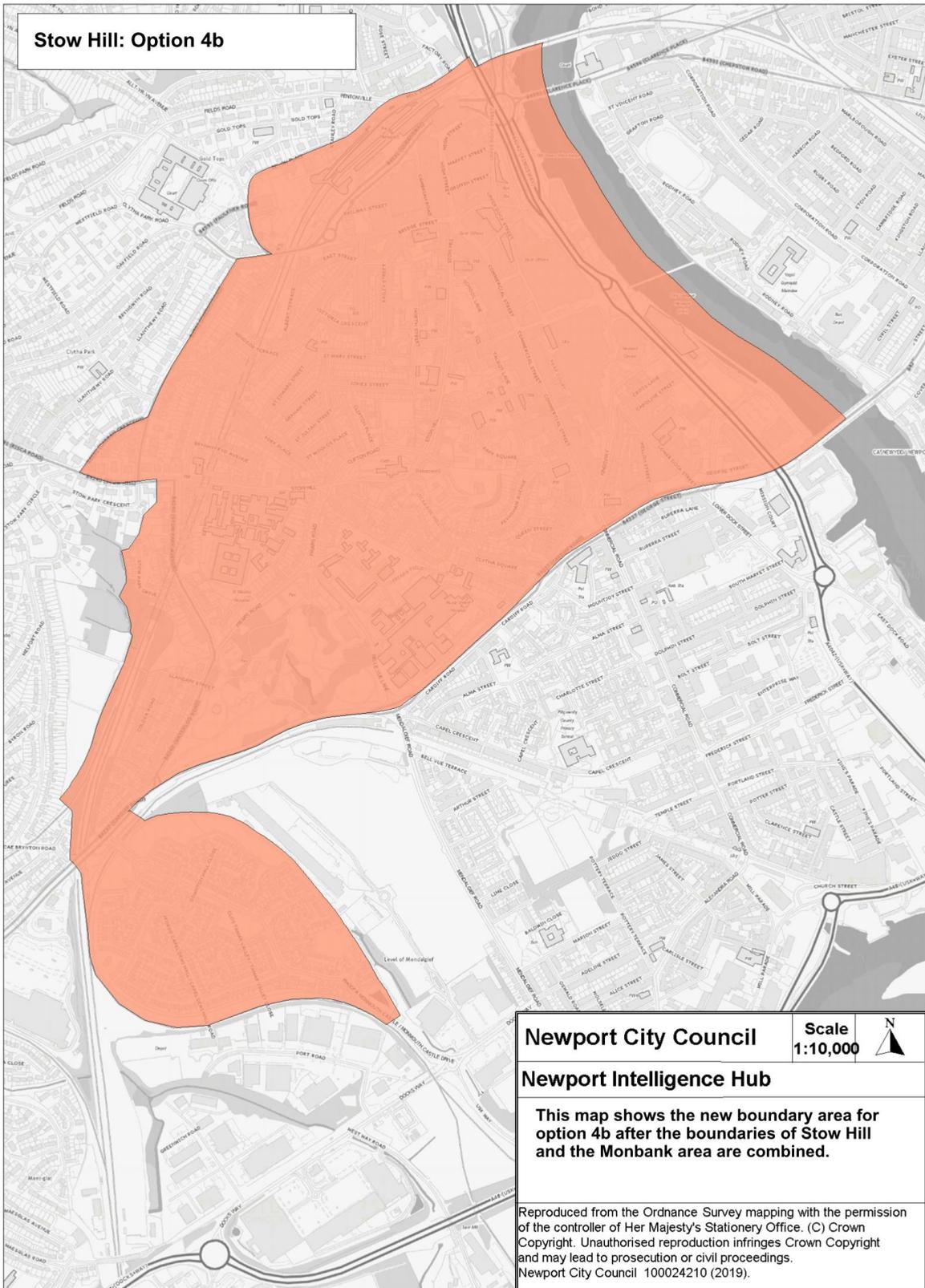


**Newport Intelligence Hub**

**This map shows the boundaries of Stow Hill ward, the Monbank area, and Whiteheads development site prior to combining.**

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**Stow Hill: Option 4b**



**Newport City Council** Scale 1:10,000   
**Newport Intelligence Hub**

**This map shows the new boundary area for option 4b after the boundaries of Stow Hill and the Monbank area are combined.**

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## Tredegar Park

Tredegar Park has the greatest current variance from electoral parity, being under-represented by 48% from the ideal ratio. Adding an additional member to the ward pushes the figures too far into over-representation, so the group considered a series of alternative options for this area.

The simplest option is to combine Tredegar Park with neighbouring Marshfield. This would correct the ratios for Tredegar Park, and result in a positive direction of travel towards greater electoral parity based on the projected figures. Although Marshfield is currently “green”, the proposed change in this option is within the Boundary Commission’s tolerance for variances below 25%.

The alternative option presented is to combine the community wards to the east of Marshfield with Tredegar Park. This would incorporate the more urban areas of the Coedkernew ward which adjoin Tredegar Park, along with the St Brides ward which, although rural, looks predominantly to Tredegar Park and Coedkernew for access and services.

Opinion was split in both the working group and the Democratic Services Committee as to the preferred option here.

Concerns were raised in both forums that the merger of two wards would combine two very different areas, putting rural village parishes with the almost exclusively urban environment around Tredegar Park. This would also create a large, three member ward with no scope for further increase in representation according to the Commission’s preferred maximum levels.

Concerns were also expressed about the proposal to split the Marshfield ward, creating a single member rural ward to the west – something that the Democratic Services Committee felt was not a desirable option if a multi-member alternative was available. Others commented that this would break existing community ties, particularly between the rural area of St Brides with adjoining Peterstone, which together make up the Wentlooge Community Council area.

The group therefore agreed to put both options forward to Council for consideration.

Tredegar Park Electoral Ward	No of Councillors		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
	1	3 or 2	3,310	3,666

Direction of travel:

- 2019 under-represented by 48% variance from ideal councillor to elector ratio
- 2024 under-represented by 28% variance from ideal councillor to elector ratio

Both current and projected figures are outside Boundary Commission’s allowed variances so change is required.

### Option a: Merge Marshfield with Tredegar Park

Create a single, three-member ward by combining the two existing wards in their entirety.

This would change the direction of travel as follows:

- 2019 under-represented by 20% variance from ideal councillor to elector ratio
- 2024 under-represented by 3% variance from ideal councillor to elector ratio

With both figures within Boundary Commission's allowed variances. Direction of travel towards greater electoral parity.

**Option b: Add St Brides and Coedkernew Community Wards to Tredegar Park**

Expand Tredegar Park to include St Brides and Coedkernew Community Wards with two members. Reduce Marshfield to a single member ward covering Marshfield, Michaelstone-y-Fedw and Peterstone Community Wards.

This would change the direction of travel for the expanded Tredegar Park ward as follows:

- 2019 under-represented by 19% variance from ideal councillor to elector ratio
- 2024 – community ward projections not available, but Tredegar Park projected figures plus Coedkernew / St Brides current figures indicates exact electoral parity.

With both figures within Boundary Commission's allowed variances. Direction of travel towards greater electoral parity.

<b>Option a: Merge Tredegar Park and Marshfield:</b> Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	2,676	Variance	20%
<b>Option b: Add St Brides and Coedkernew Community Wards to Tredegar Park</b> Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	2,673	Variance	19%

These options would have the following impact on Marshfield:

Marshfield Electoral Ward	No of Councillors		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
	2	3 or 1	4,718	5,172
<i>Marshfield Community</i>			2,300	-
<i>Coedkernew Community</i>			1,543	-
<i>Michaelstone-y-Fedw Community</i>			231	-
<i>Wentlooge Community</i>			644	-
• Peterstone Community Ward			151	-
• St Brides Community Ward			493	-

Direction of travel:

- 2019 under-represented by 6% variance from ideal councillor to elector ratio
- 2024 over-represented by 10% variance from ideal councillor to elector ratio

Both current and projected figures within Boundary Commission's allowed variances. However, Marshfield adjoins Tredegar Park, which requires changes that will impact upon Marshfield.

**Move St Brides and Coedkernew Community Wards to Tredegar Park**

Expand Tredegar Park to include St Brides and Coedkernew Community Wards with two members. Reduce Marshfield to a single member ward covering Marshfield, Michaelstone-y-Fedw and Peterstone Community Wards.

This would change the direction of travel for the reduced Marshfield ward as follows:

- 2019 under-represented by 20% variance from ideal councillor to elector ratio
- 2024 – community ward projections not available, but Marshfield projected figures minus Coedkernew / St Brides current figures indicates under-representation by 9% variance

With both figures within Boundary Commission's allowed variances. Direction of travel towards greater electoral parity.

<b>Marshfield plus Tredegar Park option:</b> Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	2,676	Variance	20%
<b>Marshfield / Michaelstone / Peterstone Community Wards option:</b> Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	2,682	Variance	20%

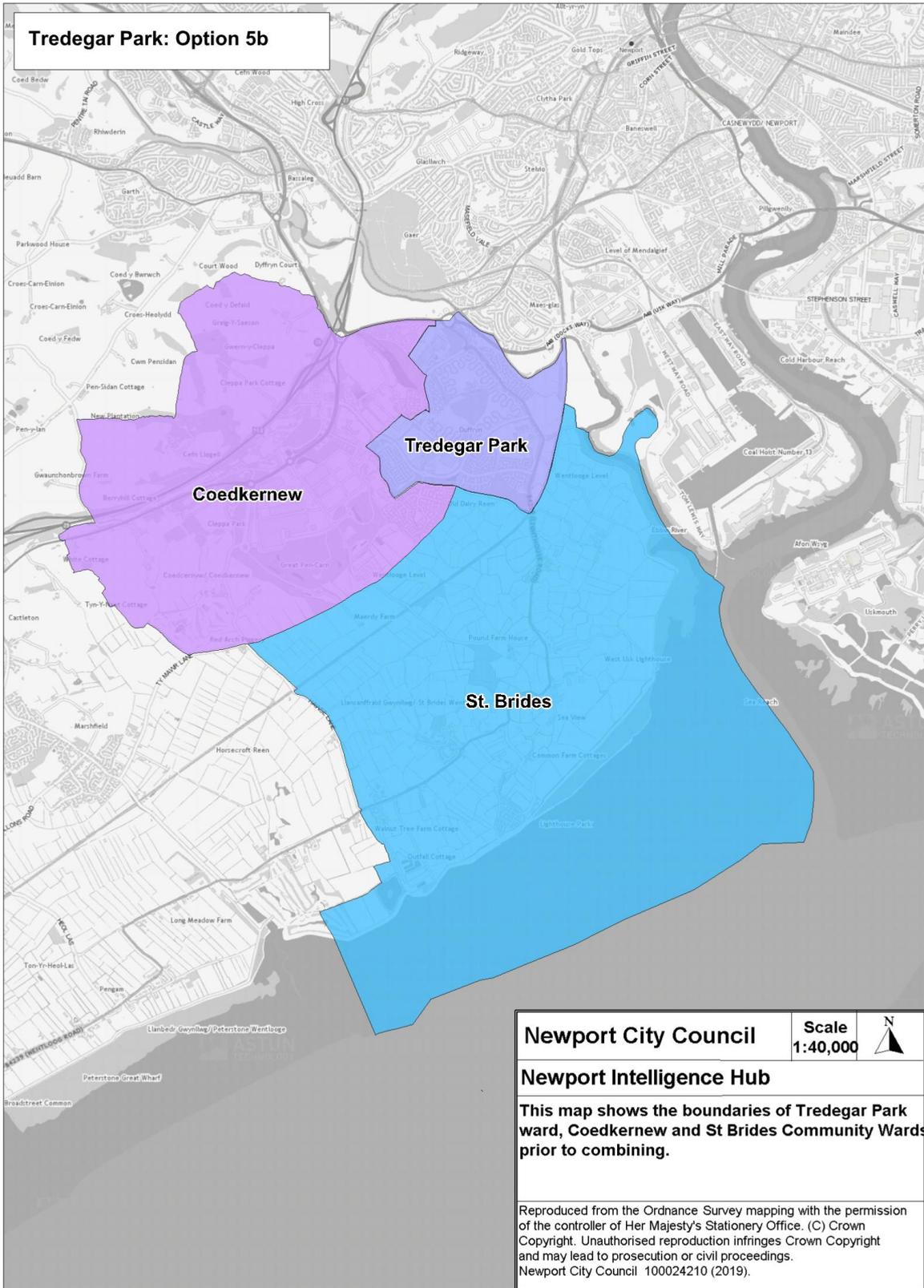
**Recommendation 5: Council is asked to agree the preferred option for Tredegar Park**

**Option 5a: Merge Tredegar Park and Marshfield**

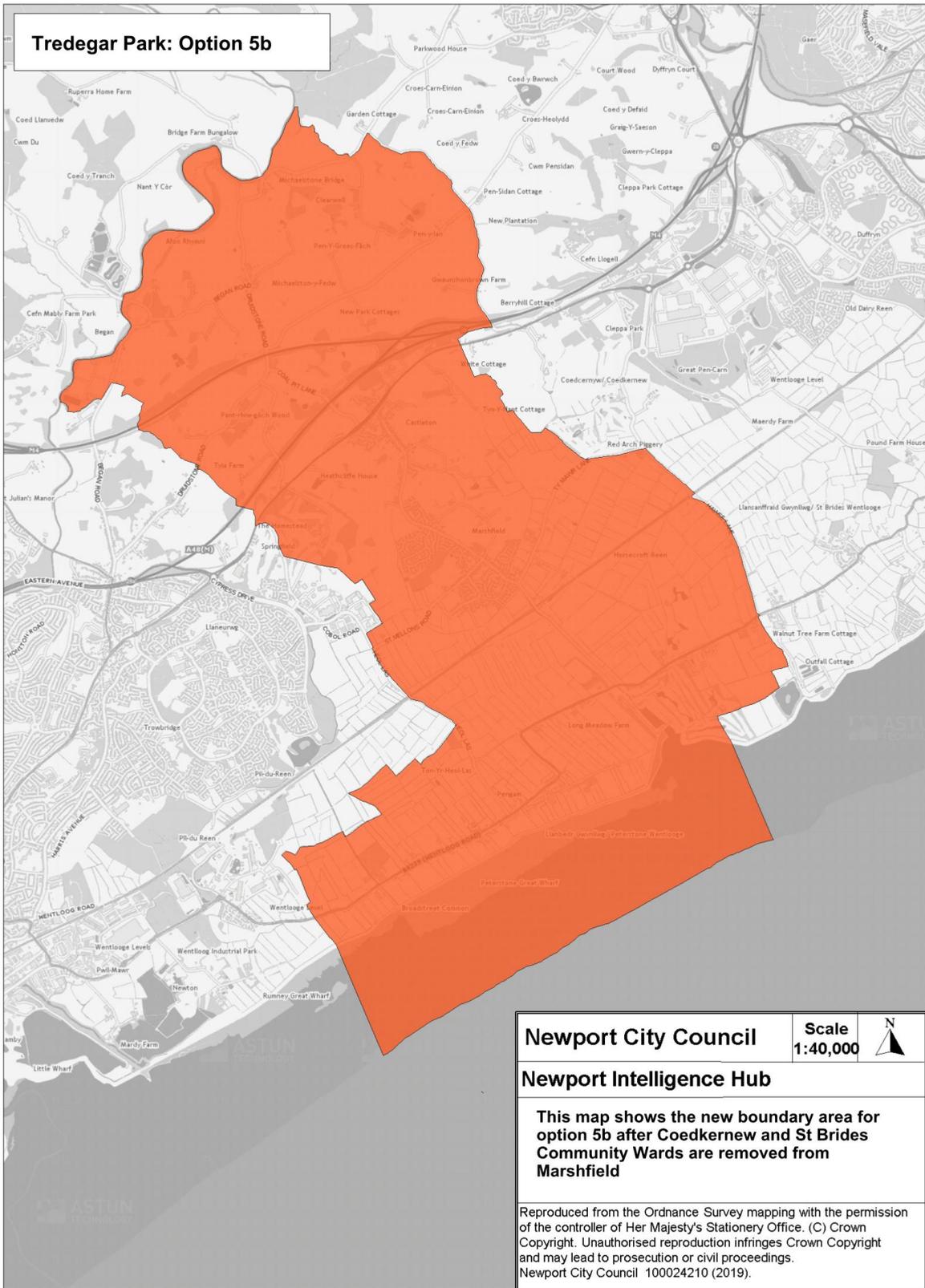
**Option 5b: Add St Brides and Coedkernew Community Wards to Tredegar Park**



**Tredegar Park: Option 5b**



## Tredegar Park: Option 5b



<b>Newport City Council</b>	<b>Scale</b> 1:40,000	
<b>Newport Intelligence Hub</b>		
<b>This map shows the new boundary area for option 5b after Coedkernew and St Brides Community Wards are removed from Marshfield</b>		
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## Feasibility of Reductions

The Council currently has a membership of 50 councillors. If all changes above were to be agreed, it would result in a total membership of 51 councillors.

According to the Boundary Commission’s Council Size Policy, the aim for Newport is a membership of 49 councillors. The Commission have stated however that proposals one or two councillors above or below that target would be considered.

In light of the stated aim of 49, the working group considered options for making reductions in wards that are currently over-represented according to elector figures. The group identified two wards where a reduction of one councillor could be made without affecting electoral parity within the tolerance of 25% above and below the ideal elector to councillor ratio – Beechwood and Bettws.

In discussing these options in both the working group and the Democratic Services Committee, concerns were raised that these reductions would cause considerable additional pressure on the remaining councillors in these wards, when the current arrangements already have the serving members working at capacity. Some argued that the particular challenges of these communities justified the minor over-representation in these wards. The overall principle of reducing the size of the Council was also questioned, when Newport’s population is increasing.

Opinion was divided in both the working group and the Democratic Services Committee as to whether a 51 or 49 model should be the preferred option. Given the parity between the numbers for Beechwood and Bettws, it was not considered fair to put forward one for reduction over another.

The working group therefore agreed to forward these options to Council for consideration.

Beechwood Electoral Ward	No of Councillors		Electorate	
	Current	Proposed	Current	5 Year Projected
	3	2 or 3	5,485	6,154

Direction of travel:

- 2019 over-represented by 18% variance from ideal councillor to elector ratio
- 2024 over-represented by 28% variance from ideal councillor to elector ratio

Current figures are within Boundary Commission’s allowed variances. Projected figures place the ward in the “amber” category.

### Option 1: Status Quo

No changes are put forward. Current figures are within allowed tolerances for over-representation.

### Option 2: Councillor Reduction

Recommend reducing Beechwood ward to 2 Councillors.

This would change the direction of travel as follows:

- 2019 under-represented by 22% variance from ideal councillor to elector ratio
- 2024 over-represented by 7% variance from ideal councillor to elector ratio

With both figures within Boundary Commission's allowed variances. Direction of travel towards greater electoral parity.

<b>3 councillor / status quo option:</b> Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	1,828	Variance	-18%
<b>2 councillor / reduction option:</b> Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	2,743	Variance	22%

<b>Bettws Electoral Ward</b>	<b>No of Councillors</b>		<b>Electorate</b>	
	<b>Current</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>5 Year Projected</b>
	3	2 or 3	5,480	6,332

Direction of travel:

- 2019 over-represented by 18% variance from ideal councillor to elector ratio
- 2024 over-represented by 26% variance from ideal councillor to elector ratio

Current figures are within Boundary Commission's allowed variances. Projected figures place the ward in the "amber" category.

**Option 1: Status Quo**

No changes are put forward. Current figures are within allowed tolerances for over-representation.

**Option 2: Councillor Reduction**

Recommend reducing Bettws ward to 2 Councillors.

This would change the direction of travel as follows:

- 2019 under-represented by 22% variance from ideal councillor to elector ratio
- 2024 over-represented by 10% variance from ideal councillor to elector ratio

With both figures within Boundary Commission's allowed variances. Direction of travel towards greater electoral parity.

<b>3 councillor / status quo option:</b> Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	1,827	Variance	-18%
<b>2 councillor / reduction option:</b> Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	2,740	Variance	22%

**Recommendation 6: Council is asked to agree the preferred option for Beechwood**

**Option 6a: Retain three Councillors in Beechwood**

**Option 6b: Reduce Beechwood ward to two Councillors**

**Recommendation 7: Council is asked to agree the preferred option for Bettws**

**Option 7a: Retain three Councillors in Bettws**

**Option 7b: Reduce Bettws ward to two Councillors**

## Multi-Member Wards - Lliswerry

The Commission's preference is for single member wards, but multi-member wards (up to three members) will be considered in cases supported by evidence to the character of the ward, or in the interests of electoral parity. Wards with more than three members will only be considered if this is the existing pattern and there is substantial evidence of local support for such a ward.

Newport only has one ward over the three-member preference. Lliswerry is represented by four members. The group looked at options for alternative arrangements in Lliswerry, but agreed that the ward worked effectively as a four member ward, did not lend itself to division, and had almost ideal electoral parity – based on both current and projected figures.

The group therefore recommends that the current arrangements are retained in this ward.

The group also noted that the Commission's paperwork refers to this ward as Liswerry. The spelling of this name has been a matter of some debate over the years. The Welsh Language Commissioner's Place-Names Standardisation Panel has recommended Liswerry and Llyswry respectively as the English and Welsh variants, although Lliswerry is the spelling in most common use locally.

The group therefore recommends that the Lliswerry spelling is agreed as the official name for this electoral ward and subsidiary community ward.

<b>Liswerry Electoral Ward</b>	<b>No of Councillors</b>		<b>Electorate</b>	
	<b>Current</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>5 Year Projected</b>
	4	4	9,155	11,445
<i>Liswerry Community</i>			8,945	-
<i>Nash Community</i>			210	-

Direction of travel:

- 2019 under-represented by 2% variance from ideal councillor to elector ratio
- 2024 exact electoral parity with 0% variance from ideal councillor to elector ratio

Both current and projected figures within Boundary Commission's allowed variances.

NB. Spelling variation of Liswerry / Lliswerry in Boundary Commission paperwork – we now use Lliswerry only.

Boundary Commission preference is for no more than three members per ward; however, Lliswerry is established and works well as a four-member ward, and the figures show near-exact electoral parity, so we propose no change to the status quo.

Proposed Councillor: Elector Ratio	2,289	Variance	2%
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**Recommendation 8: Council is asked to support the proposal to retain four representatives in Lliswerry, and agree the English spelling for this ward as Lliswerry and not Liswerry.**

## Boundary Commission Existing Arrangements Table

No.	NAME	DESCRIPTION	No. OF COUNCILLORS	ELECTORATE 2019	2019 RATIO	% variance from Council Size Aim	ELECTORATE 2024	2024 RATIO	% variance from Council size aim	Population Eligible to Vote
1	<b>Allt-yr-Yn</b>	The Community of Allt-yr-Yn	3	6,734	2,245	1%	7,335	2,445	-15%	7,116
2	<b>Alway</b>	The Community of Alway	3	5,901	1,967	-12%	7,014	2,338	-18%	6,327
3	<b>Beechwood</b>	The Community of Beechwood	3	5,485	1,828	-18%	6,154	2,051	-28%	6,029
4	<b>Bettws</b>	The Community of Bettws	3	5,480	1,827	-18%	6,332	2,111	-26%	6,221
5	<b>Caerleon</b>	The Community of Caerleon	3	6,455	2,152	-4%	6,551	2,184	-24%	6,370
6	<b>Gaer</b>	The Community of Gaer	3	6,404	2,135	-4%	7,201	2,400	-16%	6,908
7	<b>Graig</b>	The Community of Graig	2	4,842	2,421	8%	5,383	2,692	-6%	4,723
8	<b>Langstone</b>	The Communities of Langstone (2,359), Llanvaches (338) and Penhow (636)	2	3,750	1,875	-16%	4,039	2,020	-30%	3,883
9	<b>Liswerry</b>	The Communities of Liswerry (8,945) and Nash (210)	4	9,155	2,289	2%	11,445	2,861	0%	10,028
10	<b>Llanwern</b>	The Communities of Bishton (1,529), Goldcliff (274), Llanwern (1,233) and Redwick (165)	1	3,201	3,201	43%	14,283	14,283	399%	2,805
11	<b>Malpas</b>	The Community of Malpas	3	6,009	2,003	-10%	6,375	2,125	-26%	6,321
12	<b>Marshfield</b>	The Communities of Coedkernew (1,543), Marshfield (2,300), Michaelstone-y-Fedw (231) and Wentlooge (644)	2	4,718	2,359	6%	5,172	2,586	-10%	5,013
13	<b>Pillgwenly</b>	The Community of Pillgwenly	2	5,099	2,550	14%	8,902	4,451	55%	6,134
14	<b>Ringland</b>	The Community of Ringland	3	5,952	1,984	-11%	6,629	2,210	-23%	6,417
15	<b>Rogerstone</b>	The Community of Rogerstone	3	8,859	2,953	32%	9,322	3,107	8%	8,290
16	<b>Shaftesbury</b>	The Community of Shaftesbury	2	3,670	1,835	-18%	4,550	2,275	-21%	4,177
17	<b>St Julians</b>	The Community of St Julians	3	6,086	2,029	-9%	7,883	2,628	-8%	6,744
18	<b>Stow Hill</b>	The Community of Stow Hill	2	3,290	1,645	-26%	4,499	2,250	-21%	4,112
19	<b>Tredegar Park</b>	The Community of Tredegar Park	1	3,310	3,310	48%	3,666	3,666	28%	3,437
20	<b>Victoria</b>	The Community of Victoria	2	5,023	2,512	12%	7,639	3,820	33%	5,959
<b>TOTAL:</b>			50	109,423	2,188		140,374	2,807		117,014
<b>COUNCIL SIZE AIM:</b>			49	109,423	2,233		140,374	2,865		

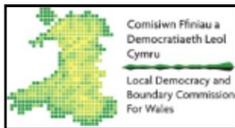
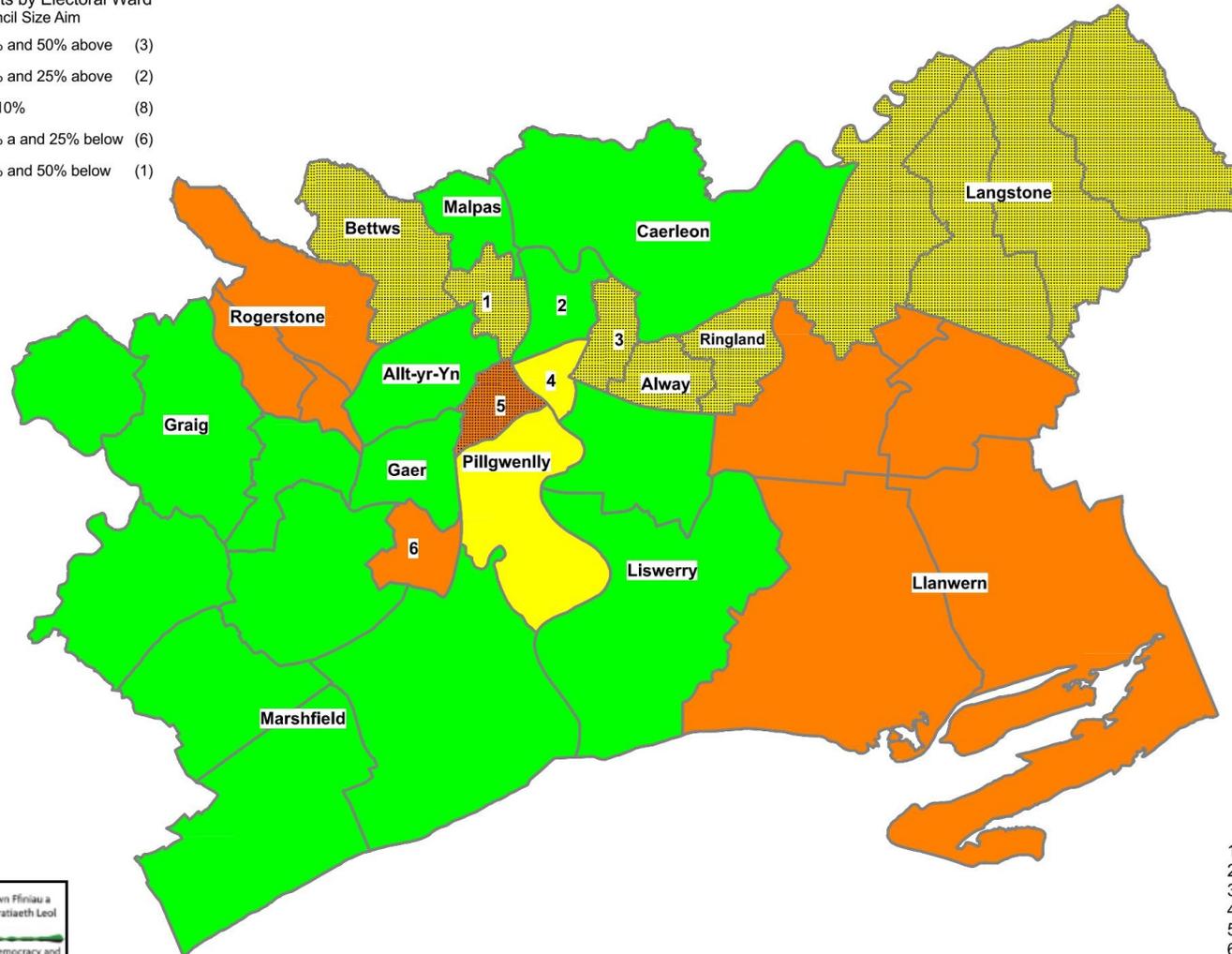
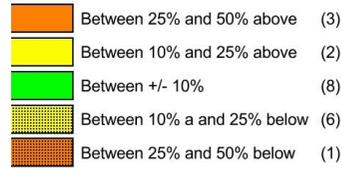
Ratio is the number of electors per councillor  
Electoral figures supplied by Newport City Council  
Population figures supplied by the Office for National Statistics

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

2019		2023	
0	0%	2	10.0%
4	20%	4	20.0%
8	40%	10	50.0%
8	40%	4	20.0%

# Boundary Commission Existing Arrangements Map

Existing arrangements by Electoral Ward  
Variance from the Council Size Aim



Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg

1. Shaftesbury
2. St. Julians
3. Beechwood
4. Victoria
5. Stow Hill
6. Tredegar Park

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## Table of Modelled Options

NAME	DESCRIPTION	No. OF CLLRS	ELECTORATE 2019	2019 RATIO	% variance from Council Size Aim	ELECTORATE 2024	2024 RATIO	% variance from Council size aim
<b>Allt-yr-Yn</b>	The Community of Allt-yr-Yn	3	6,734	2,245	1%	7,335	2,445	-15%
<b>Alway</b>	The Community of Alway	3	5,901	1,967	-12%	7,014	2,338	-18%
<b>Beechwood</b>	OPTIONS 6A / 6B: The Community of Beechwood	3	5,485	1,828	-18%	6,154	2,051	-28%
		2	5,485	2,743	23%	6,154	3,077	7%
<b>Bettws</b>	OPTIONS 7A / 7B: The Community of Bettws	3	5,480	1,827	-18%	6,332	2,111	-26%
		2	5,480	2,740	23%	6,332	3,166	11%
<b>Caerleon</b>	The Community of Caerleon	3	6,455	2,152	-4%	6,551	2,184	-24%
<b>Gaer</b>	The Community of Gaer	3	6,404	2,135	-4%	7,201	2,400	-16%
<b>Graig</b>	The Community of Graig	2	4,842	2,421	8%	5,383	2,692	-6%
<b>Langstone</b>	The Communities of Langstone (2,776), Llanvaches (338) and Penhow (636)	2	3,750	1,875	-16%	4,039	2,020	-30%
	OPTION 2B: As above plus Bishton Community (1,529)	2	5,279	2,640	18%			
<b>Lliswerry</b>	The Communities of Lliswerry (8,945) and Nash (210)	4	9,155	2,289	2%	11,445	2,861	0%
<b>Llanwern</b>	OPTION 2A: The Communities of Bishton (1,529), Goldcliff (274), Llanwern (1,233) and Redwick (165)	1	1,968	1,968	-12%			
	OPTION 2B: The Communities of Bishton (1,529), Goldcliff (274), Llanwern (1,233) and Redwick (165)	1	1,672	1,672	-25%			
<b>Malpas</b>	The Community of Malpas	3	6,009	2,003	-10%	6,375	2,125	-26%
<b>Marshfield</b>	OPTION 5B: The Communities of Coedkernew (1,543), Marshfield (2,300), Michaelstone-y-Fedw (231) and Wentlooge (644) minus St Brides (493)	1	2,682	2,682	20%			
<b>Marshfield and Tredegar Park</b>	OPTION 5A: The Communities of Tredegar Park (3,310), Coedkernew (1,543), Marshfield (2,300), Michaelstone-y-Fedw (231) and Wentlooge (644)	3	8,026	2,675	20%	8,838	2,946	3%
<b>Pillgwenlly</b>	OPTION 4A: The Community of Pillgwenlly minus Riverside area	2	4,561	2,281	2%			
	The Community of Pillgwenlly minus Riverside area	2	4,561	2,281	2%			
<b>Ringland</b>	The Community of Ringland	3	5,952	1,984	-11%	6,629	2,210	-23%
	The Communities of Ringland (5,952) and Llanwern (1,233)	3	7,185	2,395	7%			
<b>Rogerstone</b>	OPTIONS 3A / 3B: The Community of Rogerstone	4	8,859	2,215	-1%	9,322	2,331	-19%
<b>Shaftesbury</b>	The Community of Shaftesbury	2	3,670	1,835	-18%	4,550	2,275	-21%
<b>St. Julians</b>	The Community of St Julians	3	6,086	2,029	-9%	7,883	2,628	-8%
<b>Stow Hill</b>	OPTION 4A: The Community of Stow Hill plus Riverside	2	3,828	1,914	-14%			
	OPTION 4B: The Community of Stow Hill plus Monbank	2	4,101	2,051	-8%			
<b>Tredegar Park</b>	OPTION 5B: The Community of Tredegar Park (3,310), Coedkernew (1,543) and St Brides (493)	2	5,346	2,673	20%			
<b>Victoria</b>	The Community of Victoria	2	5,023	2,512	12%	7,639	3,820	33%
<b>COUNCIL SIZE AIM:</b>		<b>49</b>	<b>109,423</b>	<b>2,233</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>140,374</b>	<b>2,865</b>	<b>0%</b>