

REVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY ARRANGEMENTS OF THE COUNTY OF BRIDGEND

DRAFT PROPOSALS REPORT

January 2025

All observations on these draft proposals should be sent to:

Electoral Services
Bridgend County Borough Council
Civic Offices
Angel Street
Bridgend
CF31 4WBL

Or by email to: cgr@bridgend.gov.uk

no later than 07/04/2025.

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Chapter 1. SUMMARY OF DRAFT PROPOSALS

1. The Council proposes a change to the arrangement of communities and community wards that should ensure that communities continue to reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government across the principal council area.
2. The Council proposes changes to the boundaries of all 20 communities across the principal council area. As a consequence of these changes, the Council has proposed changes to the electoral arrangements of all communities.
3. During the initial consultation period the Council received representations from 9 Town and Community Councils, 7 County Borough Councillors, 2 Community Councillors and 1 member of the public. The Council considered the representations carefully before it formulated its proposals. All representations are published at the end of the report.
4. As described in the Terms of Reference, in producing a scheme of community arrangements the Council must have regard to a number of issues contained in the legislation. It is not always possible to resolve all of these, sometimes conflicting, issues. In the Council's proposed scheme, it has placed emphasis on ensuring that community councils are sufficient in size to support the principal authority's aspirations for the future as well as reduce any democratic deficit, whilst continuing to reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government.
5. The Council recognises that the creation of communities and community wards, which depart from the pattern which now exists, may impact upon existing ties between communities. The Council recognises however that there may be different proposals for communities and community wards that better reflect community ties and it would welcome any alternative suggestions that comply with the legislation and with the council size policy detailed in chapter 2.
6. In this document, the proposed community and community wards have been given working names which are intended to represent an area rather than particular settlements, villages, or towns. The Council recognises that there may be names that are more appropriate, and it would welcome alternative suggestions. The Council would request that these suggested names should not merely consist of listed communities and villages but, instead, should reflect the character of the areas involved as well as being effective in either Welsh or English.
7. This draft scheme represents the Council's preliminary views on the community arrangements for the principal council area. It welcomes any representations in respect of these proposals. The Council will consider carefully all representations made to it.

Chapter 2. THE COUNCIL SIZE POLICY

1. The Council adopted a 'Town & Community Council Size Policy' at a meeting of full Council on the 17th of April 2024.
2. An ideal minimum size of electorate for a community council to be in the region of 5,000 electors without any maximum size. At the Local Government elections in May 2022, of the sixteen community councils nine had an electorate of under 5,000 electors and, apart from one ward, all were uncontested; see Table 1 below. This is an indication of a democratic deficit in that there is a potential lack of democracy when seats are uncontested.

Table 1 – Community Councils under 5,000 electorate at May 2022 Local Elections

Community Council	Electorate	Seats	May 2022 Election Outcome
Merthyr Mawr	234	7	Uncontested
Llangynwyd Lower	381	7	Uncontested
Coychurch Higher	718	7	Uncontested
Coychurch Lower	1120	7	Uncontested
Cefn Cribbwr	1187	10	Uncontested
Llangynwyd Middle	2321	12	Uncontested
Ynysawdre	2749	10	Uncontested
Newcastle Higher	3368	12	Aberkenfig ward Uncontested
St Bride's Minor	4950	13	Uncontested

3. Existing community councils with smaller electorates may need to be abolished and merged with other community councils but the intention will always be to maintain their identities within the new larger community council. This will be achieved, as far as it is practical to do so, by maintaining their boundaries as a ward in the new community council as well as considering, in exceptional circumstances, increasing the representation of the abolished community council on the new council, albeit the councillor to elector ratio would be much lower than other wards on the new council. Each case would need to be assessed on its merits and in the interest of democracy.
4. In setting the ratio of councillors to electors, it is proposed to use the Aston Business School guidelines published in 1992 to provide a level of flexibility when determining the ratios. Their guidance is set out below in Table 2: -

Table 2 – Ratio of Councillors to Electors

Electorate	Councillor Allocation
Less than 500	5 – 8
501 – 2,500	6 – 12
2,501 – 10,000	9 – 16
10,001 – 20,000	13 – 27
Greater than 20,000	13 - 31

5. Warding of town and community councils will continue to be appropriate. Where they are warded, there will need to be parity in the ratio of councillors to electors amongst the wards in each town and community council albeit some flexibility may be required where mergers have taken place. This will ensure appropriate representation of abolished smaller communities councils in the new council.

Chapter 3. DRAFT PROPOSALS

1. The proposals are described in detail in this chapter. For each new proposal the report sets out:
 - The name(s) of the existing community areas which wholly or in part constitute the proposed amended new communities;
 - a brief description of the existing community arrangements in terms of the number of electors and warding arrangements (if applicable);
 - key arguments made during the deliberations;
 - the composition of the proposed community arrangements;
 - a table which sets out the proposed community council arrangements including the variance from the ratio of electors per councillor within the wards of each community; and
 - a map of the proposed community and/or community ward.

BRACKLA AND COYCHURCH LOWER

2. The current community council arrangements in Brackla consist of a total electorate of 8,835 and is represented by 12 community councillors.

Community ward	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Brackla East	2,245	3
Brackla East Central	1,860	3
Brackla West Central	2,686	3
Brackla West	2,044	3
Total	8,835	12

3. The current community council arrangements in Coychurch Lower consist of a total electorate of 1,152 and is represented by 7 community councillors.

Community	Electorate	Number of Councillors
Coychurch Lower	1,152	7
Total	1,152	7

Representations

4. The Council received 4 representations concerning the community of Brackla and 4 representations concerning the community of Coychurch Lower.

Community ward boundary proposals

5. The Council proposes to abolish the community of Brackla and the community of Coychurch Lower utilising the 2 areas to form the new community of Brackla. The existing boundaries will be used to form wards within the new community. The projected 5-year forecast for the community of Coychurch Lower is an electorate of approx. 1,242 and therefore does not meet the Council Size Policy of a minimum of 5,000 electors per community.
6. The Council proposes to apply 7 changes to the existing ward boundaries. The Council is of the view that these proposals provide for more effective and convenient local government: -
- Brackla Central ward to Brackla West ward
 - Brackla Central ward to Brackla Tremains ward
 - Brackla West ward to Brackla Central ward
 - Coity Higher to Brackla
 - Bridgend Town to Brackla
 - Brackla to Bridgend Town
 - Pencoed Town to Brackla
7. It was raised during the initial consultation that the electorate between wards in Brackla should be more evenly distributed and as a result, the council proposes to adjust the internal community boundaries. The council proposes to transfer part of the North and Southwest area of the proposed Brackla Central Ward to the proposed Brackla West Ward, which includes the streets of Maes Dewi Pritchard, Trem y Mor, Yr Helyg, The Willows, Georgian Way and Meadow Walk. This transfer affects 625 electors and ensures an even split of electors between the wards in the community of Brackla. The proposal can be found on the map on page 8 and in greater detail on the map on pages 9 and 10.
8. The Council also proposes to adjust the internal community boundary between the proposed ward of Brackla Central and the proposed ward of Brackla Tremains, by transferring part of the area to the North of the proposed Brackla Central Ward to the proposed Brackla Tremains Ward, the Council is of the view that the proposal provides for more effective and convenient local government whilst providing a clear boundary. This proposal includes the

transfer of the following streets Sunnybank Court, Pen Onnen, Rhiw Cae Mawr, Bryn Bragl, Rhiw Tremaen, Rhiw Las and Fenwick Drive. This affects 368 electors and ensures an even split of electors between the wards in the community of Brackla. The proposal can be found on the map on page 8 and in greater detail on the map on page 11.

9. The Council also proposes to adjust the internal community boundary by transferring part of the South area in the proposed ward of Brackla West to the proposed ward of Brackla Central. The Council is of the view that the proposal provides for more effective and convenient local government whilst providing a clear boundary. This proposal includes the transfer of the following streets: Clos Tan yr Cefn, Clos Tan yr Fron and Erw Hir. This affects 541 electors and ensures an even split of electors between the wards in the community of Brackla. The proposal can be found on the map on page 8 and in greater detail on the map on page 12.
10. The council proposes to adjust the boundary between the proposed Brackla community and proposed Coity Higher community. The Council proposes to re-align the boundary to place the whole of Brackla Industrial Estate within the Brackla community and the whole of the Litchard Industrial Estate within the Coity Higher community, affecting 0 electors. The council proposes to split the Brackla Industrial between the proposed wards of Brackla West and Brackla East, to provide a clear boundary by utilising the Main Avenue and Heol Ffladau Streets and taking into consideration the future proposed development that appears within the Local Development Plan (LDP). As highlighted in the representations received, Brackla Bunkers, due to historical connections, would then also be transferred from the community of Coity Higher to the community of Brackla. The proposal can be found on the map on page 8 and in greater detail on the map on pages 13 and 14.
11. The council proposes to adjust the boundary between the community of Brackla and Town of Bridgend. The street Haywain Court currently sits off Coychurch Road in Brackla but falls within Bridgend Town. To avoid elector confusion, it is proposed to transfer Haywain Court from Bridgend Town to Brackla community. This would affect 37 electors. The proposal can be found on the map on page 8 and in greater detail on the map on page 15.
12. The Council proposes to adjust the boundary between the proposed Coychurch Lower Ward within Brackla Communtiy and the proposed Oldcastle Ward of Bridgend town. This involves transferring to Bridgend Town the whole of Bridgend and Waterton Industrial Estate, as well as the surrounding residential properties that fall within this area, which include the following streets: Brocastle, Clos Waterton, Lon Tre Dwr and Heol Tre Dwr. The Council considers these areas to be more urban and therefore more aligned with Bridgend Town. This affects 250 electors. The proposal can be found on the map on page 8 and in greater detail on the map on page 16.
13. The Council proposes to adjust the boundary between the proposed Coychurch Lower Ward within Brackla Communtiy and the Hendre ward of Pencoed Town. The Coychurch Lower boundary will be extended so that it adjoins the motorway between Pencoed Town and the proposed Coychurch Lower Ward. This only affects a few isolated properties, namely Coedymwstr Uchaf and Coed y Mwstr Fawr Farm. The proposal can be found on the map on page 8 and in greater detail on the map on page 17.
14. As a result of these proposals, the electorate of the proposed community of Brackla would decrease to 9,779.

Proposed Names

15. The Council proposes to retain the existing English community name of Brackla and the Welsh community name of Bracla. The Council is of the view that Brackla, being the larger and more recognisable name included in the proposals, that this name be assigned to the new combined community area.
16. The Council proposes to retain the English community council ward name of Brackla East and the Welsh community council ward name of Dwyrain Bracla.
17. The Council proposes to retain the English community council ward name of Brackla West and the Welsh community council ward name of Gorllewin Bracla.
18. The Council proposes the English community council ward name of Brackla Central and the Welsh community council ward name of Canol Bracla.
19. The Council proposes the English community council ward name of Brackla Tremains and the Welsh community council ward name of Tremaen Bracla.
20. The Council proposes the English community council ward name of Coychurch Lower and the Welsh community council ward name of Llangrallo Isaf.

Consequential Changes

Community Council electoral arrangements

21. The proposed community council arrangements in Brackla will consist of a total electorate of 9,779 and be represented by 14 community councillors.
22. The Council is required to consider the consequential changes to the community council electoral arrangements that would occur following these proposals. The Council's proposed electoral arrangements for the community council can be seen below:

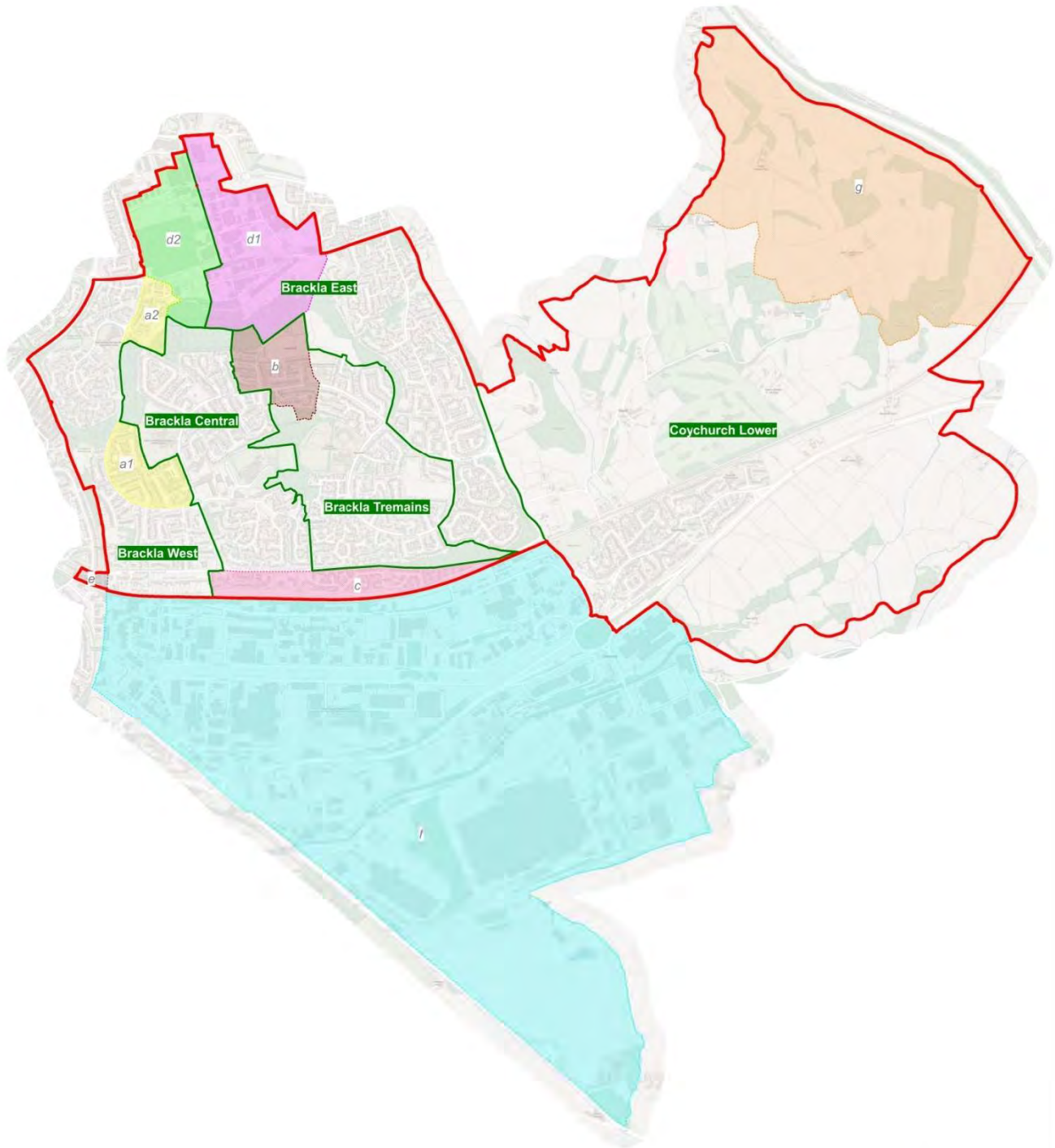
Brackla Community Council								
Wards	Existing				Proposed			
	Electors	Community Councillors	Electors per Councillor	Variance	Electors	Community Councillors	Electors per Councillor	Variance
Brackla East	2,245	3	748	42%	2,245	3	748	7%
Brackla East Central	1,860	3	620	18%				
Brackla Tremains					2,228	3	743	6%
Brackla West Central	2,686	3	895	70%				
Brackla Central					2,347	3	782	12%
Brackla West	2,044	3	681	29%	2,052	3	684	-2%
Coychurch Lower	1,152	7	165	-69%	907	2	454	-35%
Total	9,987	19	526		9,779	14	699	

The Council has proposed a council membership of 14, which is a decrease of 5 members from the existing arrangements and is in line with the Council Size Policy. The Council believes the new arrangements would improve the level of effective and convenient local government in the area.



Principal council electoral ward arrangements

23. The above proposals will have an impact on the principal councils' electoral wards, which will need to be considered by the Local Democracy and Boundary Council for Wales

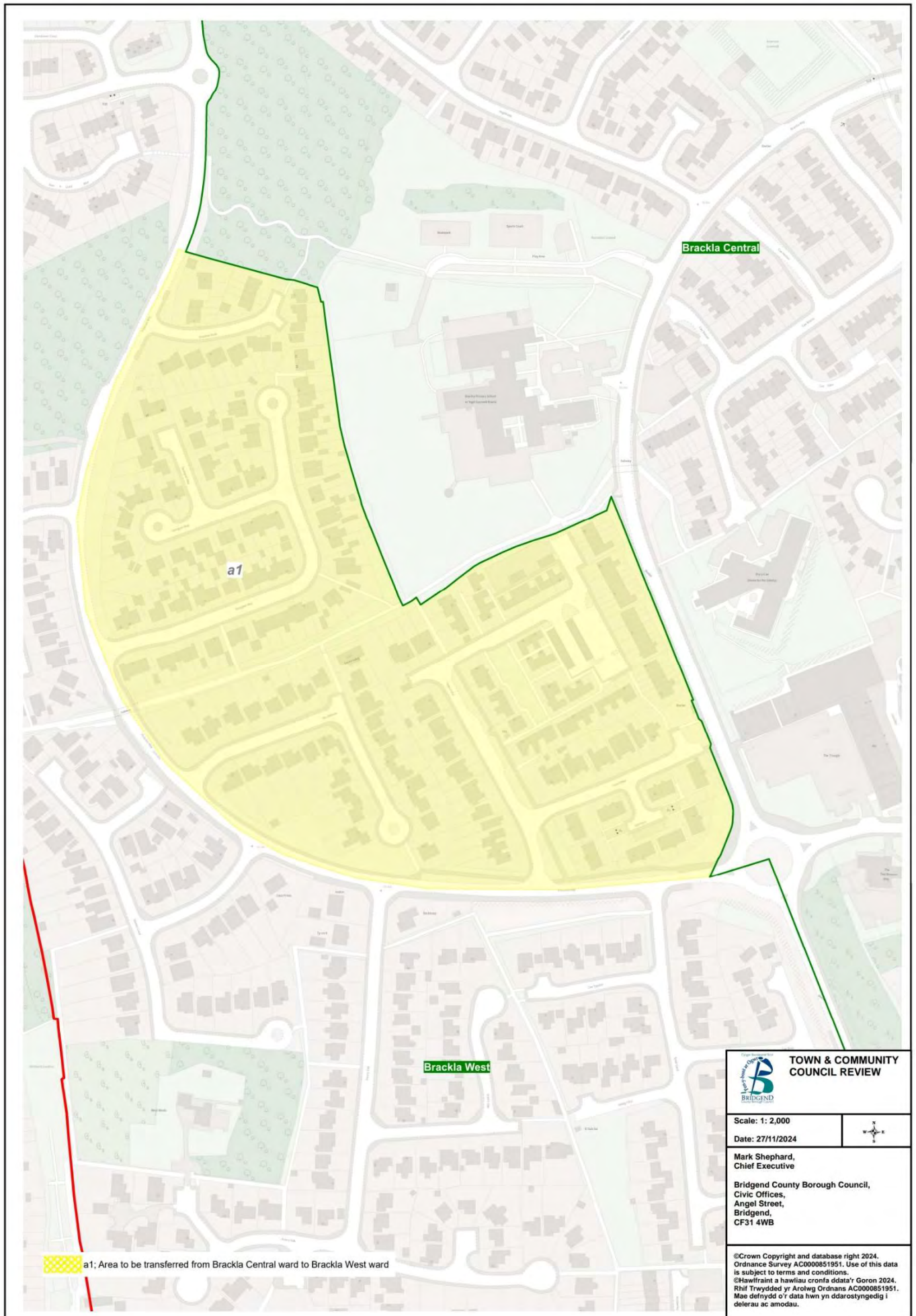
Brackla Community



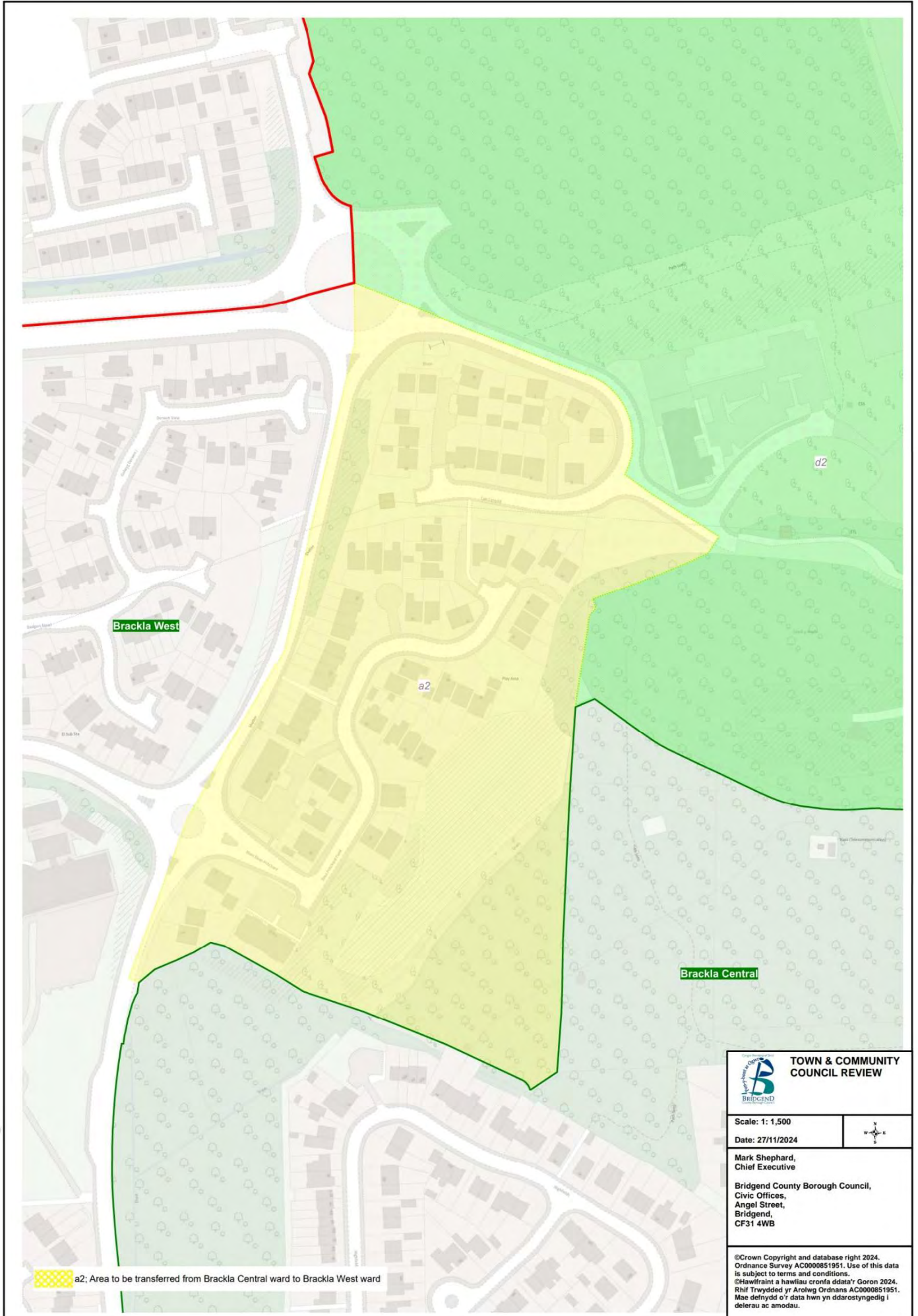
- a1; Area to be transferred from Brackla Central ward to Brackla West ward
- a2; Area to be transferred from Brackla Central ward to Brackla West ward
- b; Area to be transferred from Brackla Central ward to Brackla Tremains ward
- c; Area to be transferred from Brackla West to Brackla Central ward
- d1; Area to be transferred from Coity Higher to Brackla
- d2; Area to be transferred from Coity Higher to Brackla
- e; Area to be transferred from Bridgend Town to Brackla
- f; Area to be transferred from Brackla to Bridgend Town
- g; Area to be transferred from Pencoed Town to Brackla

 TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL REVIEW	
Scale: 1: 18,000 Date: 27/11/2024	
Mark Shephard, Chief Executive Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB	
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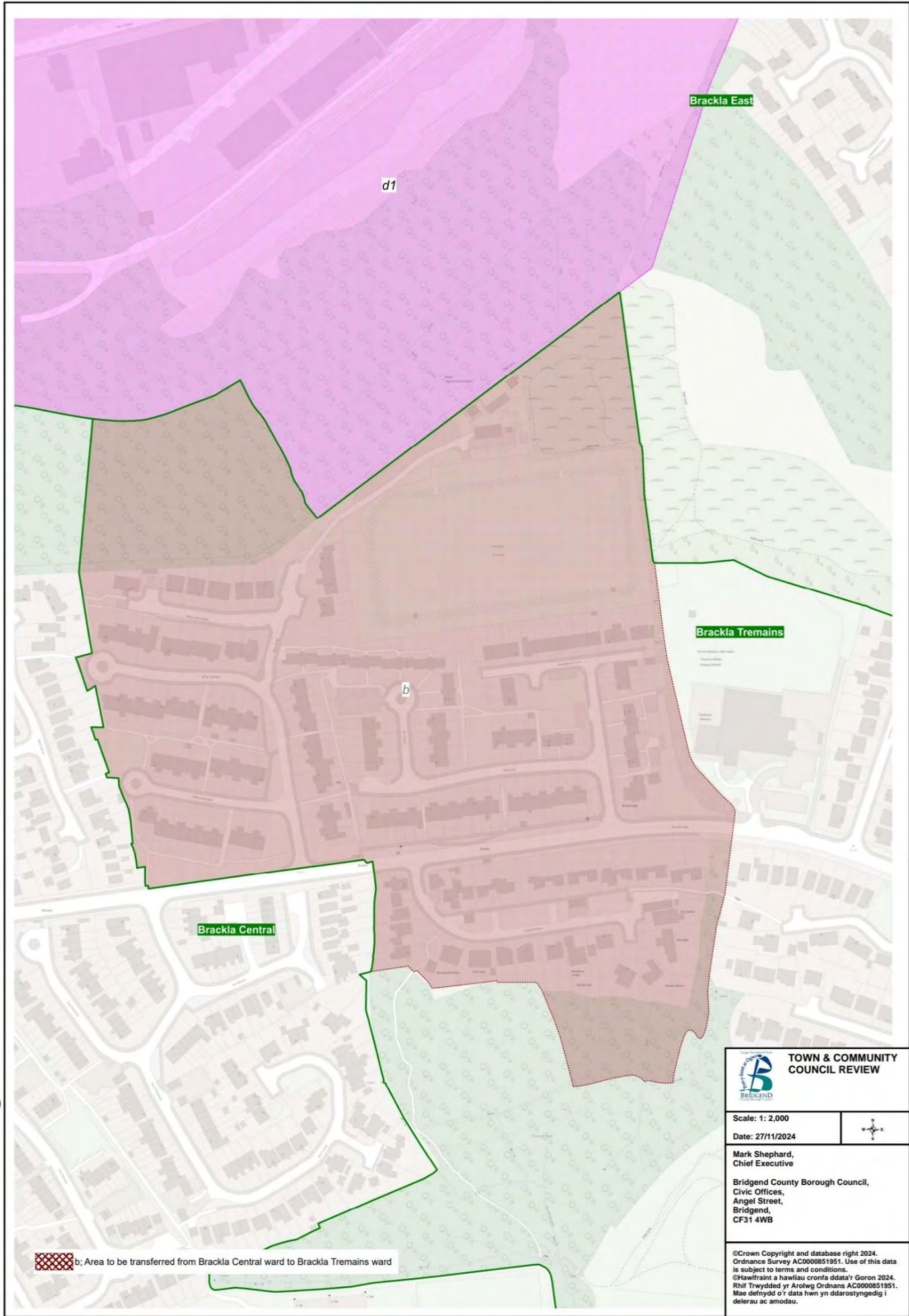
Brackla Central ward to Brackla West ward



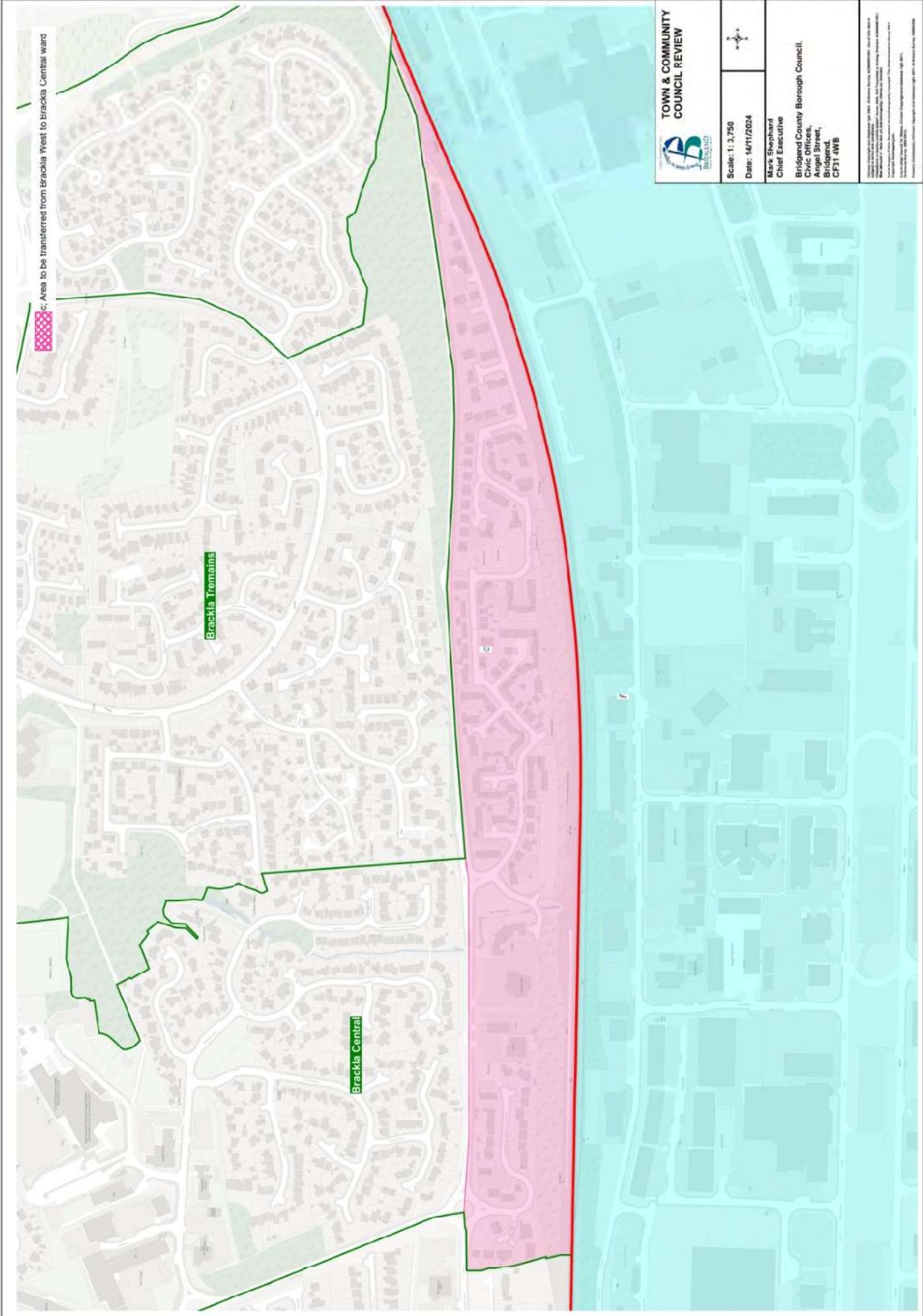
Brackla Central ward to Brackla West ward



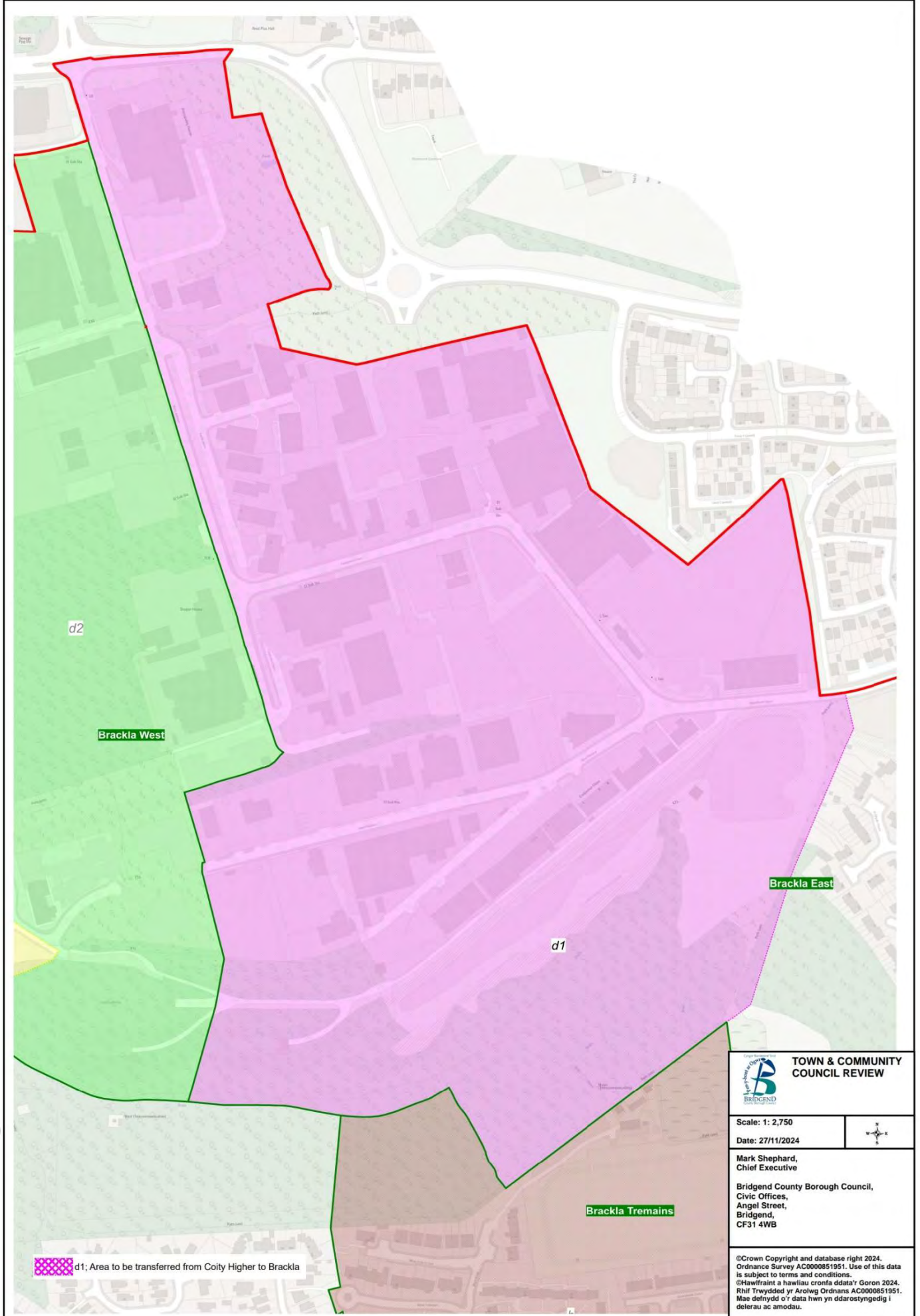
Brackla Central ward to Brackla Tremains ward



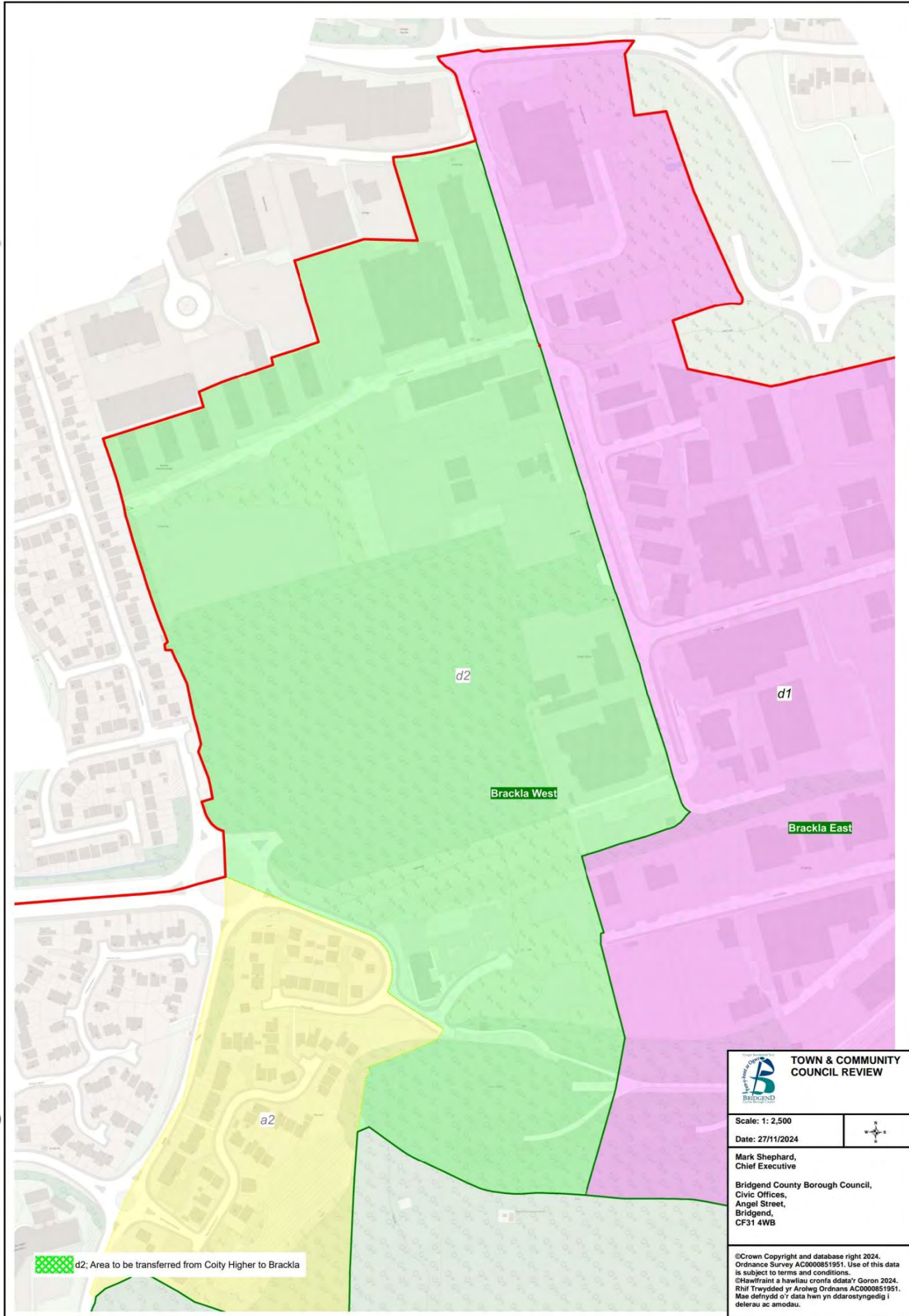
Brackla West ward to Brackla Central ward



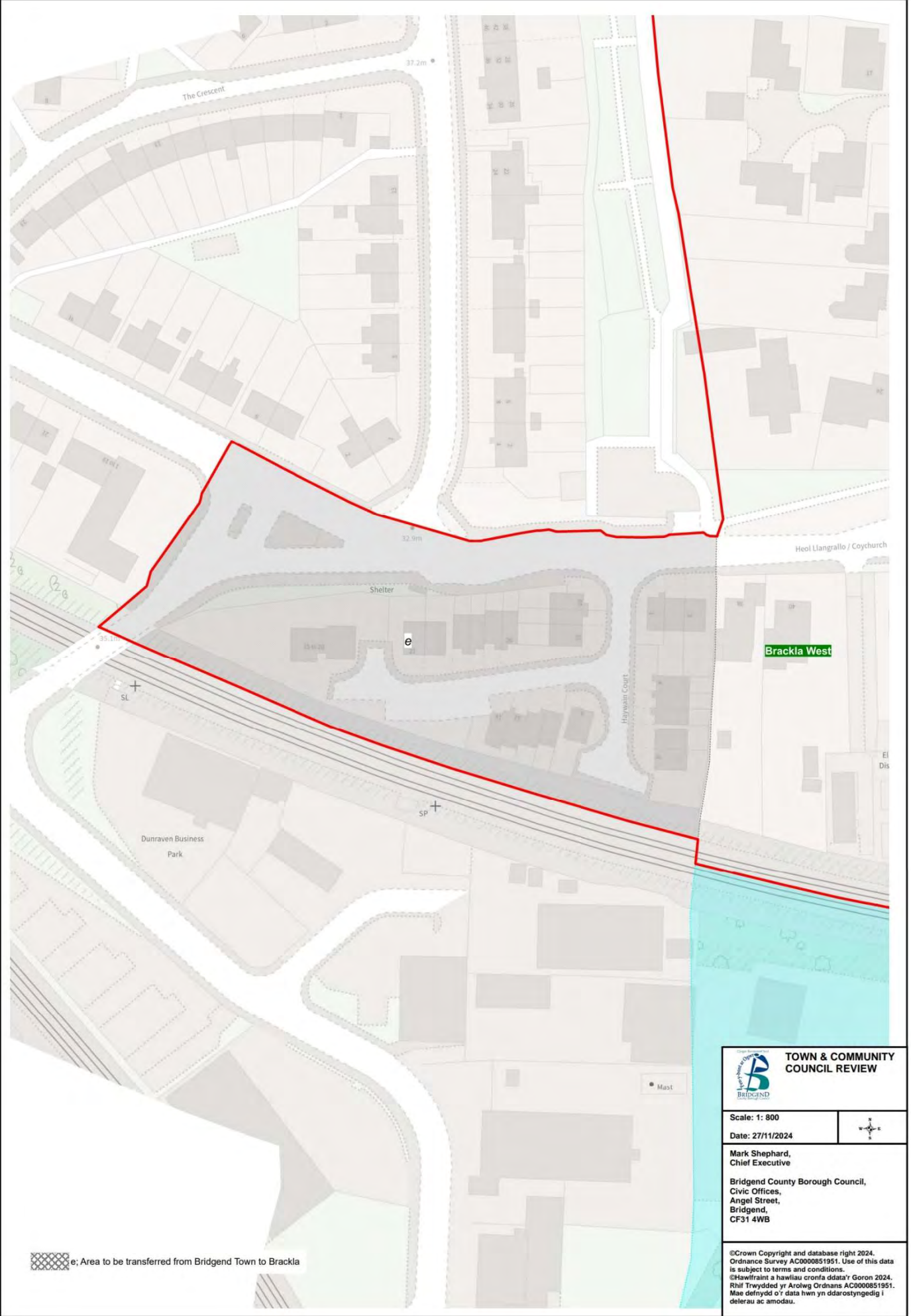
Coity Higher to Brackla



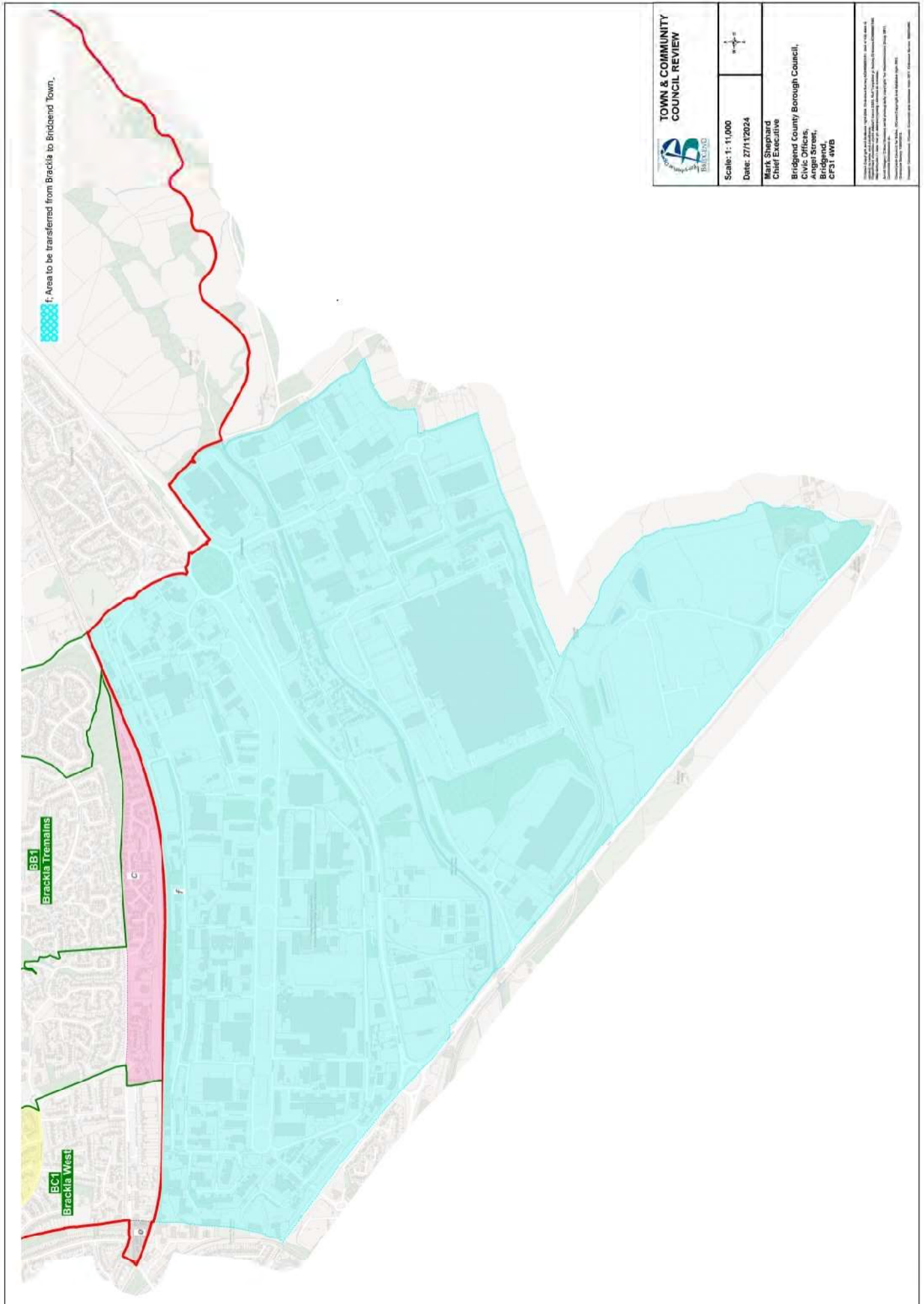
Coity Higher to Brackla



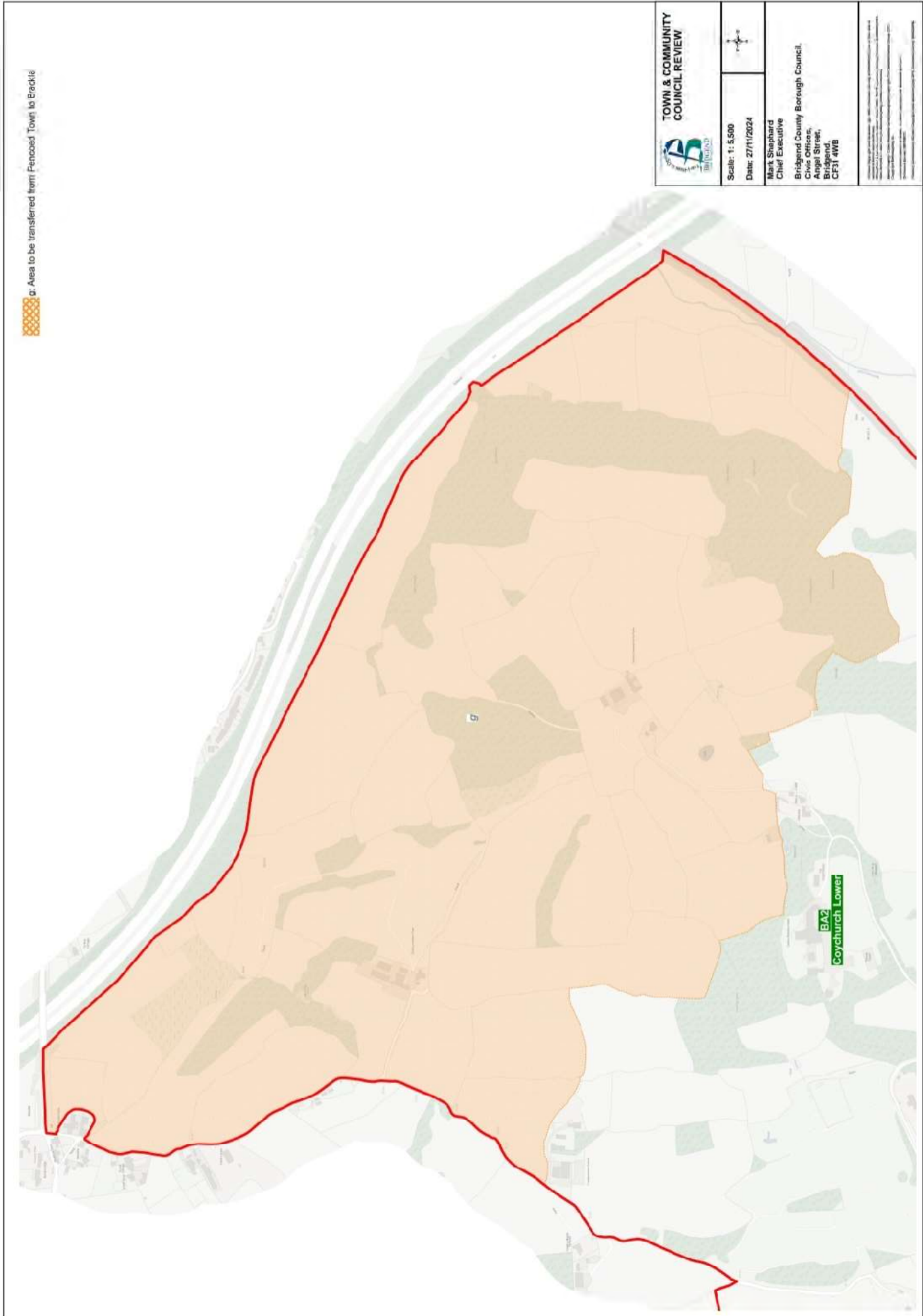
Bridgend Town to Brackla



Brackla to Bridgend Town



Pencoed Town to Brackla



THE COUNTY OF BRIDGEND COUNCIL
CURRENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

COMMUNITY NAME	DESCRIPTION	No. OF COUNCILLORS	ELECTORATE		2023 RATIO	% variance from existing County average		ELECTORATE		2028 RATIO	% variance from existing County average
			2023					2028			
Brackla	The Community Wards of Brackla East [2245], Brackla East Central [1860], Brackla West [2044], and Brackla West Central [2686]	12	8835		736	51%		8,835		736	38%
Bridgend	The Town Wards of Morfa [1548], [2016], Newcastle [1330], [1888], [735], [731] and Oldcastle [391], [1892], [1755]	19	12286		647	33%		13,345		702	32%
Cefn Cribbwr	The Community of Cefn Cribbwr [1232]	10	1232		123	-75%		1,232		123	-77%
Coity Higher	The Community Wards of Coity [1389], [2405], Litchard [2210], and Pendre [1882]	13	7886		607	24%		7,886		607	14%
Cornelly	The Community of Cornelly [5662]	9	5662		629	29%		7,447		827	55%
Coychurch Higher	The Community of Coychurch Higher [750]	7	750		107	-78%		750		107	-80%
Coychurch Lower	The Community of Coychurch Lower [1152]	7	1152		165	-66%		1,224		175	-67%
Garw Valley	The Community Wards of Blaengarw [1405], Llangeinor [947], Pontycymmer [780], and Pontycymmer [1155], []	13	5959		458	-6%		5,959		458	-14%
Laleston	The Community Wards of Laleston/Bryntirion [1591], [682], [2072], [2691], Cefn Glas 1 [1890], and Cefn Glas 2 [1420]	13	10346		796	63%		11,910		916	72%
Llangynwyd Lower	The Community of Llangynwyd Lower [380]	7	380		54	-89%		380		54	-90%
Llangynwyd Middle	The Community Wards of Cwmfelin [1021], [1263] and Cwmfelin [85]	12	2389		197	-60%		3,055		255	-52%
Maesteg	The Town Wards of East [1009], [1066], [1737], West [1058], [1034], [1365], [1058], Caerau [902], [1149], [591] and Nantyllylon [785], [1538]	17	13292		782	60%		13,396		788	48%
Merthyr Mawr	The Community of Merthyr Mawr [85], []	7	235		34	-93%		1,218		174	-67%
Newcastle Higher	The Community Wards of Pen-y-fai [1913], and Aberkenfig [1646]	12	3559		297	-39%		4,066		339	-36%
Ogmore Valley	The Community Wards of Blackmill [614], [755], Nantymoel [1855], Ogmore Vale [719], and Ogmore Vale [1796], []	15	6327		422	-14%		6,327		422	-21%
Pencoed	The Town Wards of Felindre [810], [1342], Hendre [1961], [1368], and Penprysgl, [1885]	13	7366		567	16%		8,914		686	29%
Porthcawl	The Town Wards of Newton [2127], [105], Nottage [2557], East Central [2257], [2222], West Central [1513], [791] and Rest Bay [1609], [672]	18	13853		770	58%		15,581		866	63%
Pyle	The Community Wards of Pyle [1084], [1240], [894], [2543]	9	5761		640	31%		5,801		645	21%
St Bride's Minor	The Community Wards of [], Bryncoethin [1331], [614], Bryncoch [1221], Sarn [1881], and Brynmenyn [1258], []	13	5047		388	-20%		5,064		390	-27%
Ynysawdre	The Community Wards of Sarn [1881], and Brynmenyn [1258], []	10	2852		285	-42%		3,157		316	-41%
		236	115149		488			125547		532	

A p p e n d i x 1

	2023	%	2028	%
Greater than + or - 50% of County average	10	50%	9	45%
Between + or - 25% and + or - 50% of County average	5	25%	7	35%
Between + or - 10% and + or - 25% of County average	4	20%	4	20%
Between 0% and + or - 10% of County average	1	5%	0	0%

THE COUNTY OF BRIDGEND COUNCIL
PROPOSED COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

COMMUNITY NAME	DESCRIPTION	No. OF COUNCILLORS	ELECTORATE		RATIO	% variance from existing County average	ELECTORATE		RATIO	% variance from existing County average
			2023	2028	2023	2028	2028	2028		
Brackla	The Community Wards of Brackla Central [2347], Brackla East [2245], Brackla Tremains [2228], Brackla West [2052], and Coychurch Lower [907]	14	9,779	9,779	699	7%	9,779	9,779	699	-2%
Bridgend	The Town Wards of Morfa [1909], [2016], Newcastle], [2065], [2801], and Oldcastle [1985], [2005]	19	12,781	12,781	673	3%	14,695	14,695	773	8%
Laleston	The Community Wards of Broadlands [2069], [2695], Bryntirion [1354], Cefn Glas [1462], [1896], Laleston [691], and Merthyr Mawr [57]	15	10,224	10,224	682	4%	11,988	11,988	799	12%
Coity Higher	The Community Wards of Coity [1375], [2898], Litchard [1750], and Pendre [1875]	12	7,898	7,898	658	1%	7,898	7,898	658	-8%
Cynffig	The Community Wards of Pyle [1084], [1240], Kenfig Hill [894], [2547], and Cefn Cribbwr [1257]	10	7,022	7,022	702	7%	7,062	7,062	706	-1%
Cornelly	The Community Wards of Cornelly East [1866], Cornelly South [1965], Cornelly North [1578] and Cornelly West [251]	11	5,660	5,660	515	-21%	7,445	7,445	677	-5%
Porthcawl	The Town Wards of Newton [2127], [177], Nottage [2557], Porthcawl East [1455], [2231], [Porthcawl West [1513], 1504] and Rest Bay [1609], [752]	19	13,925	13,925	733	12%	15,653	15,653	824	16%
Maesteg	The Town Wards of Maesteg East [1009], [1066], [1737], Maesteg West [1058], [1034], [1365], [1058], Caerau [876], [1149], [591], Nantffyllon [811], [1538], Cwnfelin [1021], [85], and Pontrhydydyff [1263]	22	15,661	15,661	712	9%	16,451	16,451	748	5%
Pencoed	The Town Wards of Felindre [810], [1342], Hendre [1967], [1261], Penprysg [1992], and Heol Y Cwyl [733]	13	8,105	8,105	623	-5%	9,653	9,653	743	4%
Newcastle Higher	The Community Wards of Pen-y-fai [1923], Aberkenfig [1227], Coytrahen [325], and Ynysawdre [942], [1099]	10	5,516	5,516	552	-16%	6,328	6,328	633	-11%
Llansantffraid	The Community Wards of Bryncethin [1333], Bryncethin [1105], O], Sarn [2579], and Brynnenyn [1260]	10	6,277	6,277	628	-4%	6,294	6,294	629	-12%
Garw Valley	The Community Wards of Bettws [1670], Blaengarw [1405], Llangeinor [947], and Pontycymmer [780], [1155]	10	5,957	5,957	596	-9%	5,957	5,957	596	-16%
Ogmore Valley	The Community Wards of Blackmill [605], 614], Evanstown [755], Nant-y-moel [1885], and Ogmore Vale [720], [1765]	11	6,344	6,344	577	-12%	6,344	6,344	577	-19%
TOTAL:		176	115149	115149	654		125547	125547	713	

A p p e n d i x 2

2023	%	2028	%
0	0%	0	0%
0	0%	0	0%
4	31%	6	46%
9	69%	7	54%

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

Chapter 4. RESPONSES TO THIS REPORT

1. All observations on these draft proposals should be sent to:

Electoral Services
Bridgend County Borough Council
Civic Offices
Angel Street
Bridgend
CF31 4WBL

Or by email to:

cgr@bridgend.gov.uk

no later than 31/03/2025.

2. For further information on the review and the review process please refer to the Council's webpage: www.bridgend.gov.uk/my-council/elections/boundary-reviews/