

**BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**REPORT TO CABINET EQUALITIES COMMITTEE**

**12 APRIL 2010**

**REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE – CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT & PARTNERSHIPS**

**WELSH LANGUAGE SCHEME – ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2009-10**

**1. Purpose of Report.**

The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the Council's Annual Monitoring Report on the Welsh Language Scheme, to be submitted to the Welsh Language Board.

**2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priority.**

The Welsh Language Scheme is a statutory scheme and a cross-cutting issue that impacts upon the work of the whole Council. It is linked to the equalities agenda, and is a key component in the Council's Customer Care Programme.

**3. Background.**

The Council is required to report to the Welsh Language Board on an annual basis, outlining progress made on implementing its Welsh Language Scheme. It is also expected to note how improvements will be made over the coming year.

**4. Current situation / proposal.**

A draft Annual Monitoring Report is attached. It confirms that improvements have been made in a number of areas and examples of this are:

- An advice and guidance leaflet has been published aimed at the Council's third party contractors.
- Advice for staff that was developed in the last financial year has been adapted to be included in the staff e-learning programme.
- The Council's new website has been built to offer a much enhanced bilingual service and now includes a substantial number of Welsh language pages. The website has been completely re-designed and it now offers that facility to change between Welsh and English pages.
- There is still some translation work to be done but this is being progressed as a priority in the Council's Web Development Project.
- The website also now includes "Browse Aloud" software to make it accessible for visually-impaired people, in both English and Welsh.
- Bespoke "Welsh in the Workplace" training was organised for the Welsh-speaking staff in the Customer Service Centre. This was recognised as good practice by the Welsh Assembly Government.

- Following the enrolment of approximately 16 Councillors and 50 members of staff on beginners Welsh courses in January 2009, 5 elected members and 13 members of staff completed the course, and a further 60 individuals enrolled for courses starting in September 2009.
- Articles have appeared in the County Borough Bulletin, the “Bridgend” staff newsletter and the local Welsh newspaper *Yr Hogwr* to promote these developments to a wider audience.
- “Mae gen ti ddewis” campaign materials have also been displayed in workplaces and distributed to local community groups and service users, with assistance from Corporate Marketing.
- A Welsh Language Active Young People Officer has been appointed in partnership with the Urdd and funded by European Social Fund for a period of four years. It is an unique post in Wales and the Healthy Living service in the Wellbeing Directorate is pleased to have been able to develop it in partnership.
- The Childcare Development Team now employs a part-time Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin Development Worker.

Full details of progress against all of the actions due for completion in 2009-10, as well as those that were outstanding from 2008-09, can be found in Appendix A of the Report.

## **5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules.**

As this is a monitoring report, there are no proposed changes to the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.

## **6. Legal Implications.**

Publication of the Annual Monitoring Report ensures compliance with the Welsh Language Act 1993.

## **7. Financial Implications.**

The cost of implementing the improvements has been met from within existing resources.

## **8. Recommendation.**

It is recommended the Cabinet Equalities Committee approves the Annual Monitoring Report to the Welsh Language Board.

**David MacGregor**  
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**12 April 2010**

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### **Background documents**

Welsh Language Act (1993)

Bridgend County Borough Council Welsh Language Scheme, 1997

Bridgend County Borough Council Welsh Language Scheme, 2008-2011