

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO CABINET COMMITTEE - EQUALITIES

23 MAY 2011

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE – PERFORMANCE
WELSH LANGUAGE SCHEME – DRAFT ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT
2010 – 2011

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To introduce the draft annual monitoring report on the Welsh Language Scheme and seek the Committee's approval for its submission to the Welsh Language Board.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priority

- 2.1 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 Corporate Equality Scheme and the council's Customer Care Programme.

3. Background

- 3.1 An annual monitoring report is required to be submitted to the Welsh Language Board.

4. Current situation / proposal

- 4.1 A draft annual monitoring report is attached at Appendix 1. The report outlines the progress that Bridgend County Borough Council has made in implementing its Welsh Language Scheme during the financial year 2010-11. It has been prepared in accordance with the monitoring and reporting framework outlined in the Scheme and responds to the requirements of the Welsh Language Board in their letter of 31st March 2011 entitled Arrangements for Reporting Performance in 2011.
- 4.2 The council recognises the progress that has been made, but is not complacent about what work is outstanding. We are pleased to have continued to build a positive relationship with the Welsh Language Board.
- 4.3 Appendix 1A provides a summary of performance during the year, highlighting progress and good practice and identifying shortfalls and mitigating actions proposed in relation to the following projects:

- Advice and guidance

- Website development
- Recruitment advertising
- Staffing and training

4.4 As a result of the Inspection of Welsh Local Authority Websites and On-line Services undertaken early in 2010, the Welsh Language Board identified that the majority of Bridgend County Borough Councils' website pages were not available in Welsh and asked a number of questions about the authority's programme and barriers faced. Our response to these questions is attached as appendix 1B.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules

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

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 Whilst no equality impact assessment has been carried out this report provides the Committee with information which will positively assist in the delivery of the Authority's equality duties.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 As this is a progress report it has no direct financial implications.

8. Recommendation

8.1 That the Committee considers the annual monitoring report and approves its submission to the Welsh Language Board

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17 May 2010

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Background documents:

Bridgend County Borough Council Welsh Language Scheme 2008-2011