

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO CABINET COMMITTEE - EQUALITIES

17 SEPTEMBER 2012

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE – PERFORMANCE

**WELSH LANGUAGE SCHEME – ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT
2011 – 2012**

1. Purpose of Report

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

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priority

- 2.1 The Welsh Language Scheme is a statutory and cross-cutting issue that impacts upon the work of the whole council. It is linked to the Strategic Equality Plan and the council's Customer Care Programme.

3. Background

- 3.1 An annual monitoring report is required to be submitted to the Welsh Language Commissioner (which was established on 1 April 2012 upon the abolition of the Welsh Language Board).

4. Current situation / proposal

- 4.1 An annual monitoring report is attached at Appendix 1. The report outlines the progress that the council has made in implementing its Welsh Language Scheme during the financial year 2011-12. It has been prepared in accordance with the monitoring and reporting framework outlined in the Scheme and responds to the requirements of the former Welsh Language Board.

- 4.2 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
- Number of Welsh speaking employees and training

- 4.3 As a result of the Inspection of Welsh Local Authority Websites and on-line Services undertaken in 2010, the Welsh Language Board identified

that at that time, the majority of Bridgend County Borough Councils' website pages were not available in Welsh. The Board asked a number of questions about the authority's website development project and barriers faced, to which a response was submitted in September 2010. A detailed report on the improvements made to the provision of website pages in Welsh since this inspection was provided to our Cabinet Committee – Equalities on 23 May 2011. A progress report on the website development project is attached as appendix 1B.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules

5.1 None.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 As this is a progress report, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 None.

8. Recommendation

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

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11 September 2012

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Background documents:

Bridgend County Borough Council Welsh Language Scheme 2008-2011