

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO CABINET COMMITTEE - EQUALITIES
6 DECEMBER 2012

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE - PERFORMANCE

UPDATED ACTION PLAN FOR THE WELSH LANGUAGE SCHEME 2012-15

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to propose an updated action plan for the period 2013-2014 for the council's Welsh Language Scheme 2012-15.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives / other corporate priorities

- 2.1** The council's Welsh Language Scheme is prepared under the Welsh Language Act 1993. It is a cross cutting matter that impacts on all services provided by the council. It links to the equalities agenda and in particular supports our objectives for customer service.

3. Background

- 3.1** The council's current Welsh Language Scheme was agreed in March 2012 and expires at the end of 2015 or when the Commissioner for the Welsh Language formally introduces the awaited national standards, whichever is the earlier.

- 3.2** The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 has been passed but the exact content of the standards is yet to be established. The Commissioner for the Welsh Language launched a consultation exercise on the new Measures. Consultation closed in August 2012 and the outcome is awaited. It may be two or three years before the national standards become operational and replace existing Welsh Language Schemes. Until the standards are developed and become operational, the council's Welsh Language Scheme needs to remain a live document. Local authorities are expected to continue to work with their existing Schemes.

4. Current situation / proposal

- 4.1** Until the new national standards have been set, it is proposed that an updated action plan be prepared to ensure progress on meeting our duties under the Welsh Language Act and the promotion of the use of the Welsh language continues.

- 4.3** Attached as Appendix 1 is a draft action plan 2013-2014 for the current Welsh Language Scheme. The revised plan includes actions to further deliver on the objectives of the current Welsh Language Scheme in areas of:

- Website development
- Staffing and training
- Customer service / recruitment advertising
- Commissioning and procurement / performance measurement
- Youth service

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules

5.1 The Welsh Language Scheme remains. This report proposes updated actions to further deliver on the Scheme.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

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

7. Financial implications

7.1 There will be financial implications in relation to the action plan. Exact implications are unknown but it would be expected that these implications are met within existing budgets.

8. Recommendation

8.1 The Cabinet Committee – Equalities approves the draft action plan.

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Background documents:

Bridgend County Borough Council Welsh Language Scheme 2012-2015.