

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO CABINET COMMITTEE EQUALITIES

12 JUNE 2013

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR RESOURCES

**WELSH LANGUAGE SCHEME – ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT
2012 – 2013**

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To outline the council's Welsh Language Scheme annual monitoring report 2012-13 and seek the committee's approval for 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 impacting on 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.

4. Current situation / proposal

- 4.1 The annual monitoring report 2012/2013 is attached at Appendix 1. The report highlights the council's progress in implementing its Welsh Language Scheme during this period. 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 Commissioner.

- 4.2 Appendix 1 to the monitoring report (updated action plan 2012 – 2013) 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;
- Number of Welsh speaking employees and training;
- Procurement;
- Youth Service

- 4.3 As a result of the 2010 inspection of Welsh local authority websites and on-line services, the Welsh Language Board identified that at that time,

the majority of BCBC's 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 Welsh webpages since this inspection was provided to our Cabinet Equalities Committee on 23 May 2011. A progress report on the website development project is attached as Appendix 3 to the monitoring report.

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 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

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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Date: 14 May 2013

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Background documents:

Bridgend County Borough Council Welsh Language Scheme 2012 - 2015