

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO CABINET COMMITTEE - EQUALITIES

18 DECEMBER 2013

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR RESOURCES

**UPDATED ACTION PLAN FOR THE
WELSH LANGUAGE SCHEME 2012-15**

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to report on progress made in the 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 in accordance with the Welsh Language Act 1993. It is cross cutting and impacts on all services provided by the council. It links to the equalities agenda and supports our objectives for customer service.
- 2.2 The Welsh Language Scheme 2012 – 15 supports the following Corporate Plan 2013 – 2017 priorities:
- Priority 2: working together to raise ambitions and drive up educational achievement;
 - Priority 4: working together to help vulnerable people to stay independent;
 - Priority 6: Working together to make the best use of our resources.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Welsh Language Scheme action plan was developed to support the implementation of the scheme enabling progress to be measured against target dates. A three year timetable covers the life of the scheme i.e. 2012 - 2015. The action plan is reviewed annually to allow the council to assess and review budget and resources needed to implement and sustain the scheme.
- 3.2 BCBC will continue to work within its existing Welsh Language Scheme, which expires at the end of 2015, until proposed new standards are introduced.
- 3.3 Councils will no longer be required to operate Welsh language schemes following the introduction of new standards however BCBC will produce new style guidance clearly outlining those standards and

how they will be implemented. Annual monitoring reports to the Welsh Language Commissioner will continue to be a requirement. Action plans will therefore be needed to enable self-assessment of performance.

4. Current situation / proposal

4.1 Until the new national standards are set, an updated action plan has been prepared to monitor progress on meeting our duties under the Welsh Language Act.

4.3 Attached as Appendix 1 is a draft progress report on the action plan 2013-2014 for the existing Welsh Language Scheme. As well as reporting on progress to date the action plan includes new 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 in place. 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 Equalities 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 are met within existing budgets.

8. Recommendation

8.1 The Cabinet Committee Equalities approves the draft action plan.

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Date: 27.11.13

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Background documents:

Bridgend County Borough Council Welsh Language Scheme 2012-2015.