

**BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**REPORT TO CABINET EQUALITIES COMMITTEE**

**13 JULY 2017**

**REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – OPERATIONAL AND PARTNERSHIP SERVICES**

**WELSH LANGUAGE STANDARDS ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17**

**1. Purpose of report**

To inform Cabinet Equalities Committee of the content and approach taken with the council's second Welsh Language Standards Annual Report 2016/17.

**2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priority**

The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 introduced Welsh Language Standards, which impact upon the work of the whole council. The standards link to the equalities agenda, form a key component of the council's Transformation Programme and Customer Charter and link to the following corporate priorities:

- Priority 2: Helping people to be more self-reliant
- Priority 3: Smarter use of resources.

**3. Background**

The Welsh Language Standards give Welsh speakers improved, enforceable rights in relation to the Welsh language. The council received its final compliance notice on 30 September 2015, which outlined 171 standards requiring compliance.

Standards 158, 164 and 170 require the council to produce and publish an annual report, in Welsh, by 30 June each year. The annual report 2016/17 covers the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017.

**4. Current situation / proposal**

4.1 The council's Welsh Language Standards Annual Report 2016/17 is attached as appendix 1 and outlines:

- the council's preparations for compliance with the March and September 2016 standards and the ways in which the council has complied with them;
- the number of complaints received by the council during the reference period;
- the number of employees who disclosed Welsh language skills as at 31 March 2017;
- the number of employees attending training courses offered in Welsh during the period and the percentage of those staff who attended the Welsh version;
- the number of new and vacant posts advertised during the period categorised as posts where either:

- Welsh language skills were essential;
- Welsh language skills needed to be learnt following appointment to the post;
- Welsh language skills were desirable; or
- Welsh language skills were not necessary.

The report also includes data relating to:

- reception services;
- the number of full Equality Impact Assessments (EIA) undertaken;
- promotional activities undertaken.

The standards that relate to publishing an annual report do not require that the report be approved by the Council or the Welsh Language Commissioner prior to publication as was previously required.

## **5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules**

There are no proposed changes to the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.

## **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

This is an information report. As such, no EIA is required.

## **7. Financial Implications**

None within this report.

## **8. Recommendation**

It is recommended that Cabinet Equalities Committee receives and notes the content of this report and the Welsh Language Standards annual report 2016/17.

**Andrew Jolley**

**Corporate Director – Operational and Partnership Services**

**Date: 21 June 2017**

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**Background papers:** None