

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO CABINET EQUALITIES COMMITTEE

16 JULY 2018

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE – CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S DIRECTORATE

WELSH LANGUAGE STANDARDS ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

1. Purpose of report

To inform Cabinet Equalities Committee of the content and approach taken with the council’s third Welsh Language Standards annual report for 2017/18.

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; enabling people to use the language of their choice by ensuring our systems and front line services are delivered bilingually. Ensuring that bilingual systems enable people to better equipped to manage situations themselves and the council services can concentrate on those in greatest need.
- Priority 3: Smarter use of resources; ensuring that all its resources (financial, physical, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the development of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council’s priorities.

3. Background

3.1 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.

3.2 Standards 158, 164 and 170 require the council to produce and publish an annual report, in Welsh, by 30 June each year.

4. Current situation / proposal

4.1 The council’s Welsh Language Standards annual report 2017/18 covers the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 and was published, as required by the 30 June 2018. The report is attached as appendix 1.

4.2 The report outlines how the council has complied with the standards it is under a duty to comply with during the period and also documents any progress and new developments with our compliance.

4.3 As part of this annual report, there is a duty on us to report on the following specific information:

- the number of complaints received by the council during the period;
- the number of employees who disclosed Welsh language skills as at 31 March 2018;
- the number of employees attending training courses offered in Welsh during the period;
- the number of new and vacant posts advertised during the period categorised as posts where either:
 - Welsh language skills were essential;
 - Welsh language skills were desirable.
- In addition to the information specified in section 4.2 we have also included updates on EIAs, customer contact and our promotional activities.

4.4 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 under the Welsh Language Scheme

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. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment

8.1 This is an update report, therefore a well-being of future generations Act (2015) assessment has not taken place in order to prepare this report.

9. Recommendation

It is recommended that Cabinet Equalities Committee receives and notes the content of this report and the Welsh Language Standards annual report 2017/18.

Darren Mepham

Chief Executive – Chief Executive’s Directorate.

Date: 16 July 2018

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Background papers: None