

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO CABINET COMMITTEE EQUALITIES

24 AUGUST 2020

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

WELSH LANGUAGE STANDARDS ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet Committee Equalities of the content and approach taken with the council's fifth Welsh Language Standards annual report for 2019-2020

2. Connection to Corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objective/objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:

- **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** - taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.
- **Smarter use of resources** - ensuring that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the council's well-being objectives.

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 2019-2020 covers the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 and was published, as required by the 30 June 2020. The report is attached as Appendix one.
- 4.2 The report outlines how the council has complied with the standards under a duty to comply during the period and also documents any progress and new developments with our compliance.

4.3 As part of the annual report, there is a duty on us to report specifically on the following 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 2020;
- 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 Equality Impact Assessments, 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

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

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

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

7.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report..

9. Recommendation

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet Committee Equalities receives and notes the content of this report and the Welsh Language Standards annual report 2019-2020.

Mark Shephard
Chief Executive
Date: 24 August 2020

10. Contact officers:

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Background papers:

Appendix one - Welsh Language Standards annual report 2019-2020 (Welsh)
Appendix two - Welsh Language Standards annual report 2019-2020 (English)