

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO CABINET COMMITTEE EQUALITIES
3 DECEMBER 2020

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**UPDATE REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WELSH LANGUAGE (WALES)
MEASURE 2011 AND WELSH LANGUAGE STANDARDS**

1. Purpose of report

1.1 This report updates the Cabinet Committee Equalities (CCE) on the implementation of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards.

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

2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being 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 to deliver the council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

3.1 Since the council received its compliance notice from the Welsh Language Commissioner in 2015, progress towards implementing the 171 assigned standards has continued.

3.2 Updates on compliance have been provided at every CCE since 28 April 2016.

4. Current situation / proposal

4.1 Key progress/updates with compliance since the last update report can be summarised as:

- Officers attended the launch event for the 'Closing the Gap' Welsh Language Commissioner assurance report on 15 September 2020. This is the sixth assurance report published by the Commissioner. The report addresses the issues on which organisations need to take action over the coming months. It includes evidence on:
 - organisations' performance in providing Welsh language services and encouraging people to use them

- compliance arrangements – what organisations do to ensure their provision is compliant
- workforce capacity – ensuring that there are enough Welsh speakers in the right roles
- promoting the Welsh language – contributing to the future of the Welsh language by considering the impact of policy and grant decisions on the language
- implementing Welsh language promotion strategies.

A copy of the concise version of the ‘Closing the Gap’ Welsh Language Commissioner assurance report can be seen in Appendix one (Welsh) and Appendix two (English).

1. No new complaints have been received since the last update report.

2. Previous complaints update:

- The Commissioner had received a complaint from a member of the public on 14 August 2020 regarding the fact that the standard of the Welsh language in the update ‘Diweddariad Covid-19: Ailagor canolfannau hamdden a phyllau nofio fesul cam ym Mwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr’ is lower than the equivalent update in English. The update was received via e-mail from bridgendcbc@public.govdelivery.com on 13 August 2020. Initial information has been sent to the Commissioner in relation to this complaint. On 29 October 2020 the Welsh Language Commissioner notified BCBC that they would not carry out an investigation into this complaint, stating that ‘In this case, although it appears on the face of it that the council has failed to comply with the requirements of the Welsh language standards, it is not a matter sufficient to conduct an investigation as both errors are understandable to Welsh speakers and grammatically correct, and clarification was given regarding the error of uploading the wrong text with the ‘VJ’ celebration day.’

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 There is no effect upon the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 This is an information report. As such, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

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

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 That the Cabinet Committee Equalities receives and considers this report.

Mark Shephard
Chief Executive
Date: 3 December 2020

10. Contact officers:

Nicola Bunston
Consultation, Engagement and Equalities Manager
Email: nicola.bunston@bridgend.gov.uk
Telephone: 01656 643664
Postal address: Civic Offices,
Angel Street
Bridgend
CF314WB

Philip O'Brien
Group Manager - Transformation and Customer Services
Email: Philip.O'Brien@bridgend.gov.uk
Telephone: 01656 643333
Postal address: Civic Offices,
Angel Street
Bridgend
CF314WB

11. Background papers:

- 28 April 2016 Update report on implementation of the Welsh Language (Wales) measure 2011 and Welsh Language standards ;
- 14 July 2016 Welsh Language standards annual report 2015/16 ;
- 14 July 2016 Update report on implementation of the Welsh Language (Wales) measure 2011 and Welsh Language standards ;
- 10 November 2016 Update report on implementation of the Welsh Language (Wales) measure 2011 and Welsh Language standards ;
- 9 March 2017 Update report on implementation of the Welsh Language (Wales) measure 2011 and Welsh Language standards ;
- 13 July 2017 Welsh Language standards annual report 2016/17 ;
- 13 July 2017 Update report on implementation of the Welsh Language (Wales) measure 2011 and Welsh Language standards ;
- 23 November 2017 Update report on implementation of the Welsh Language (Wales) measure 2011 and Welsh Language standards.

- 22 March 2018 Update report on implementation of the Welsh Language (Wales) measure 2011 and Welsh Language standards.
- 16 July 2018 Update report on implementation of the Welsh Language (Wales) measure 2011 and Welsh Language standards.
- 19 November 2018 Update report on implementation of the Welsh Language (Wales) measure 2011 and Welsh Language standards.
- 26 March 2019 Update report on implementation of the Welsh Language (Wales) measure 2011 and Welsh Language standards.
- 04 July 2019 Update report on implementation of the Welsh Language (Wales) measure 2011 and Welsh Language standards.
- 26 November 2019 Update report on implementation of the Welsh Language (Wales) measure 2011 and Welsh Language standards.
- 24 August 2020 Update report on implementation of the Welsh Language (Wales) measure 2011 and Welsh Language standards.
- 7 October 2020 Update report on implementation of the Welsh Language (Wales) measure 2011 and Welsh Language standards.