

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO CABINET COMMITTEE EQUALITIES

27 JULY 2021

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 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** – ensure 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:

- The new Welsh Language Strategy for 2021 to 2026 is currently being developed. The council has asked residents from across Bridgend County Borough, schools, Members and other stakeholders to share their views by taking part in a public consultation on the draft Welsh Language objectives. The public consultation went live on 10 May 2021 and closed on 18 June 2021. Details of the public consultation will be published on the council's website.

- No new complaints have been received since the last update report.
- There are no outstanding complaints to give an update on.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 There is no effect upon the policy framework and procedure rules.

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

6.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales, the council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. This is an information report, therefore it is not necessary to carry out an EIA in the production of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

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. The following is a summary to show how the five ways of working to achieve the well-being goals have been used to formulate the recommendations within this report:

Long-term – Ensuring that the council is able to deliver bilingual services now and in the future.

Prevention – Improving services and upskilling staff will ensure that everyone regardless of language choice has equal access to services and thus preventing complaints and Welsh Language Commissioner Investigations.

Integration - By providing bilingual services to the public we make everyone feel equal and valued.

Collaboration - Partnership working assists the council in meeting its duties under the Welsh Language Standards. Working in collaboration with partners is further evidenced in the Five-Year Welsh Language Strategy.

Involvement - Publication of the report ensures that the public and stakeholders can review the work that has been undertaken.

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
27 July 2021

Contact officer: Nicola Bunston
Consultation, Engagement and Equalities Manager

Telephone: (01656) 643664

Email: nicola.bunston@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal address: Level one, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend,
CF314WB

Contact officer: Philip O'Brien
Group Manager - Transformation and Customer Services

Telephone: (01656) 643333

Email: Philip.OBrien@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal address: Level one, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend,
CF314WB

Background papers:

None