BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET COMMITTEE EQUALITIES

25 JULY 2022

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 The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet Committee Equalities (CCE) on the implementation of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and 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** – 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, presented in July 2021 can be summarised as:

- The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) consultation was launched on 27 September 2021. This consultation invited views on Bridgend County Borough Council's (BCBC) WESP 2022-2032 and aimed to seek the views of residents, our workforce, elected members and stakeholders on the proposed WESP for 2022-2032. The results from the consultation were used to inform the final WESP which will be implemented in September 2022. The consultation closed on 19 December

2021, and results were presented to Cabinet in January 2022. Following Cabinet approval, the draft WESP has been submitted to Welsh Government for consideration and following feedback from Welsh Government on 24th June, a revised draft WESP was submitted, which is awaiting approval.

- The Commissioner received a complaint from a member of the public on 15 March 2022 regarding Awen Cultural Trust, who are responsible for delivering services on behalf of Bridgend County Borough Council, including libraries, community centres and Bryngarw Country Park.

  In the complaint it was identified that Awen Cultural Trust were not fully aware of the requirements upon them under the Welsh Language Standards and it appeared that there are no adequate arrangements in place to ensure that the Trust was aware of which standards are applicable to them and therefore what is required to ensure compliance.

  BCBC has submitted evidence to the commissioner to evidence Awen's compliance with the Welsh Language Standards. At the time of the report, BCBC had not received a response to the evidence it had submitted to the Commissioner.

- There is an outstanding complaint in relation to the Mynydd Cynffig school consultation, evidence has been provided to the Commissioner and we are presently awaiting the outcome of the complaint.

- There are no further outstanding complaints.

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 Equality Impact assessment 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 and its appendices.

Mark Shephard
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
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Contact officer:	Alix Howells Consultation, Engagement and Equalities Manager
Telephone:	(01656) 643664
Email:	**Alix.Howells@bridgend.gov.uk**
Postal address:	Level one, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB
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, CF31 4WB

Background papers:

None