

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO CABINET COMMITTEE EQUALITIES
23 NOVEMBER 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 2022, can be summarised as:

- Following a complaint from the commissioner regarding the Mynydd Cynffig consultation, where it was found that BCBC had not fully considered the effect the enlargement of Mynydd Cynffig Primary school would have on the Welsh Language, new guidance and a Welsh Language Impact Assessment has been developed, which will need to be completed for all new strategies. These

guidelines aim to assist officers in ensuring the above considerations are an integrated aspect of policy development within Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) whilst also ensuring that decision makers (including Full Council / the Executive (Cabinet) / and Senior Officers through delegated decisions) are aware of their duties when making a decision.

- The Commissioner received a complaint from a member of the public on 18 August 2022 regarding an issue on the council's website. In the complaint it was identified that BCBC's website had errors on the Welsh version of the internet.

BCBC has submitted evidence to the commissioner. On 21 August 2022, BCBC received a response from the commissioner stating that they will be undertaking a full investigation of this complaint.

- 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 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.

Mark Shephard
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
8 November 2021

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.O'Brien@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal address: Level one, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

Background papers:

None