

Meeting of:	CABINET COMMITTEE EQUALITIES AND EMPLOYEE RELATIONS
Date of Meeting:	2 SEPTEMBER 2026
Report Title:	WELSH LANGUAGE STANDARDS ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26
Report Owner: Responsible Chief Officer / Cabinet Member	CORPORATE DIRECTOR – FINANCE AND TRANSFORMATION CABINET MEMBER CORPORATE SERVICES
Responsible Officer:	ZOE EDWARDS CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT AND EQUALITIES MANAGER
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	There is no effect upon the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.
Executive Summary:	To present the Council's Welsh Language Standards Annual Report for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present the Welsh Language Standards Annual Report 2025/26 for consideration and approval.
- 1.2 To demonstrate the Council's compliance with its duties under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Welsh Language Standards require local authorities to produce and publish an Annual Report outlining compliance with the Standards during the preceding financial year.
- 2.2 The Annual Report attached as **Appendix 1** covers the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 and summarises the Council's performance against the Welsh Language Standards.

3. Current situation/ proposal

- 3.1 The report confirms that the Council continues to maintain arrangements to support compliance with the Welsh Language Standards.

- 3.2 During the year a Consultation, Engagement and Welsh Language Impact Assessment Toolkit was introduced to strengthen consideration of Welsh language impacts within policy development and consultation activity.
- 3.3 Welsh language training opportunities remained available to employees throughout the year.
- 3.4 During the reporting period the Council received three complaints relating to compliance with the Welsh Language Standards. The complaints concerned:
- publication of a social media post in English only;
 - consideration of Welsh language impacts within a transport-related consultation process; and
 - Welsh language service provision by a third-party debt recovery contractor acting on behalf of the Council.
- 3.5 All three complaints were investigated and addressed through the Council's established complaints and compliance procedures. Appropriate corrective action was taken and the outcomes have informed service improvements. No formal enforcement action was taken by the Welsh Language Commissioner.
- 3.6 The Report also outlines activities undertaken to promote the Welsh language and Welsh culture throughout the year.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

- 4.1 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. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

- 5.1 The Report supports the Council's well-being objectives by promoting and facilitating the use of Welsh and contributing to the national well-being goal of a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language.

6. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct climate change or nature implications arising from this report.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

- 7.1 There are no direct safeguarding or corporate parenting implications arising from this report.

8. Financial Implications

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

9. Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet Committee Equalities and Employee Relations:

1. Approves the Welsh Language Standards Annual Report 2025/26 attached as **Appendix 1**;
2. Notes the actions taken in response to complaints received during the reporting period and the improvements implemented as a result;
3. Note that the Annual Report 2025/26 will be published in accordance with the Council's statutory obligations.

Background documents

None