

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO CABINET COMMITTEE EQUALITIES

17 JULY 2014

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR RESOURCES

**WELSH LANGUAGE SCHEME – ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT
2013 – 2014**

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To outline the council's Welsh Language Scheme annual monitoring report 2013-14 and seek the committee's approval for submission to the Welsh Language Commissioner.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priority

- 2.1 The Welsh Language Scheme is a statutory and cross-cutting issue impacting on the work of the whole council. It is linked to the Strategic Equality Plan and the council's Customer Care Programme. The Welsh Language Scheme 2012 – 15 supports the following Corporate Plan 2013 – 2017 priorities:

- Priority 2: working together to raise ambitions and drive up educational achievement;
- Priority 4: working together to help vulnerable people to stay independent;
- Priority 6: Working together to make the best use of our resources.

3. Background

- 3.1 An annual monitoring report is required to be submitted to the Welsh Language Commissioner.

4. Current situation / proposal

- 4.1 The annual monitoring report 2013/2014 is attached at Appendix 1. The report highlights the council's progress in implementing its Welsh Language Scheme during this period. It has been prepared in accordance with the monitoring and reporting framework outlined in the scheme and responds to the requirements of the Welsh Language Commissioner.

4.2 Appendix 1 to the monitoring report (updated action plan 2013 – 2014) provides a summary of performance during the year, highlighting progress and good practice and identifying shortfalls and mitigating actions proposed in relation to the following projects:

- Advice and guidance;
- Website development;
- Number of Welsh speaking employees and training;
- Procurement;
- Youth Service

4.3 Following a 2010 inspection of Welsh local authority websites and on-line services, the former Welsh Language Board identified that, at that time, the majority of BCBC's website pages were not available in Welsh. A detailed progress report on the website development project is attached as Appendix 2 to the monitoring report.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules

5.1 None.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 As this is a progress report, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

8. Recommendation

8.1 That the committee considers the annual monitoring report and approves its submission to the Welsh Language Commissioner.

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Date: 30 June 2014

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Background documents:

Bridgend County Borough Council Welsh Language Scheme 2012 - 2015