

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO CABINET COMMITTEE EQUALITIES

17 SEPTEMBER 2015

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR RESOURCES

**WELSH LANGUAGE SCHEME – ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT
2014 – 2015**

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To outline the council's Welsh Language Scheme annual monitoring report 2014-15 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. The implementation of the new Welsh Language Standards in 2015 will require the continuation of Annual Monitoring Reports however the format will, in future, will be a focus on the council's compliance with the standards rather than specific activities which has historically been the case.

4. Current situation / proposal

- 4.1 The annual monitoring report 2014/2015 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 The guidance provided for the completion of the Annual Monitoring Report 2014/15 requires a lower level of reporting with a reduction in the specific data and information provided. Therefore, in line with the Welsh Language Commissioner's guidelines, the report itself is much less detailed.

4.3 However, the Annual Monitoring Report still includes performance information and data on:

- Frontline Services – Youth Services, Reception Areas and Contact Centres;
- Management and administration of the scheme - Procurement in Adult Social Care and Childrens Services, complaints and information relating to the council's website;
- Welsh language skills of employees – details of staff receiving training and the numbers (and locations) of those staff declaring linguistic skills in Welsh;
- Mainstreaming the Welsh Language – Equality Impact Assessments and the Council's Corporate Plan.

4.4 The council's Annual Monitoring Report on the Welsh Language Scheme, following approval, is required to be with the Welsh Language Commissioner by 30 September 2015.

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: 25 August 2015

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Background documents:

Bridgend County Borough Council Welsh Language Scheme 2012 - 2015