

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO CABINET EQUALITIES COMMITTEE

14 JULY 2016

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – OPERATIONAL AND PARTNERSHIP SERVICES

WELSH LANGUAGE STANDARDS ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

1. Purpose of Report

To inform Cabinet Equalities Committee of the content and approach taken with the council's Welsh Language Standards annual report 2015/16.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priority

The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 introduced Welsh language standards which impact upon the work of the whole council. The standards link to the equalities agenda, form a key component of the council's Customer Care Programme and link to the following corporate priorities:

- Priority 2: Helping people to be more self-reliant;
- Priority 3: Smarter use of resources.

3. Background

The Welsh Language Standards give Welsh speakers improved, enforceable rights in relation to the Welsh language. The council received its final compliance notice on 30 September 2015 which outlined 171 standards requiring compliance.

Standards 158, 164 and 170 require the council to produce and publish an annual report, in Welsh, by 30 June each year. The annual report 2015/16 covers the period during which the council was required to comply with the Welsh language standards i.e. 30 and 31 March 2016. The content of this first annual report therefore may differ from that of future reports.

4. Current situation / proposal

4.1 The council's Welsh language standards annual report 2015/16 is attached as appendix 1.

The report outlines:

- The preparations for compliance with the March 2016 standards made by the council and the ways in which the council has complied with the standards;
- the number of complaints received by the council during the period in question;
- the number of employees who have Welsh language skills at the end of the year;

- the number of employees attending training courses offered in Welsh during the period and the percentage of staff attending who attended the Welsh version;
- the number of new and vacant posts advertised during the period categorised as posts where either –
 - Welsh language skills were essential;
 - Welsh language skills needed to be learnt following appointment to the post;
 - Welsh language skills were desirable and
 - Welsh language skills were not necessary.

The report also includes data relating to:

- reception services;
- the number of Full Equality Impact Assessments undertaken.

The standards that relate to publishing an annual report do not require that the report be approved by the council or the Welsh Language Commissioner prior to publication as was previously required.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules

There are no proposed changes to the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

This is an information report. As such, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

7. Financial Implications

None within this report

8. Recommendation

It is recommended that Cabinet Equalities Committee receives and considers this report and the Welsh Language Standards annual report 2015/16.

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Date: 24 June 2016

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Background documents: None