

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Cabinet Meeting: 19 June, 2017

Report of the Cabinet Member for Learning and Culture

Welsh Standards Annual Monitoring Report

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Cabinet endorsement of the Welsh Standards Annual Monitoring Report for 2016/17.

Recommendation

1. That Cabinet endorse the contents of the Welsh language Standards Annual Monitoring Report 2016-17 attached at [Appendix A](#) to this report.

Reason for the Recommendation

1. To ensure that Cabinet is aware of and endorse the steps which have been taken to action the Welsh Standards Compliance Notice for the Vale of Glamorgan Council issued by the Welsh Language Commissioner in 2015.

Background

2. The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 makes provision for specifying standards of conduct in relation to the Welsh language. These replaced the Welsh language schemes provided for by the Welsh Language Act 1993. The 2011 Measure enables Welsh Ministers to authorise the Welsh Language Commissioner to issue a "Compliance Notice" to those organisations to which the Measure applies. Initially Draft Compliance Notices were issued to all Councils and after considering responses, the Commissioner issued final Compliance Notices on 30 September 2015.
3. The Welsh Standards Compliance Notice for the Council is a comprehensive and detailed list of standards relating to service delivery, policy making, operational matters, promotion and record keeping. (For ease of reference the background papers consist of a Cabinet report dated 14 December 2015 which includes the full Compliance Notice as an appendix.) One of the standards in the Compliance Notice states that:-

(a) You must produce a report (an "annual report"), in Welsh, in relation to each financial year, which deals with the way in which you have complied with the standards with which you were under a duty to comply during that year.

(b) You must publish the annual report no later than 30 June following the financial year to which the report relates.

(c) You must publicise the fact that you have published an annual report.

(d) You must ensure that a current copy of your annual report is available - (a) on your website, and (b) in each of your offices that are open to the public.

Relevant Issues and Options

4. The Annual Monitoring Report for 2016/17 is attached as [Appendix A](#). It is an opportunity for the Council to highlight the achievements of the first year of implementing the standards.

Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)

5. There are no resource implications arising specifically from this report. The main resource implications of implementing the Welsh language standards are ongoing translation costs.

Sustainability and Climate Change Implications

6. One of the Wellbeing Goals included in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act is "a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language". The standards are intended to contribute to that goal, integral to the achievement of Sustainable Development.

Legal Implications (to Include Human Rights Implications)

7. The Council is bound by the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, according to which the Welsh Language Commissioner can require certain standards to be put in place by organisations affected by the legislation. Acting in accordance with the Commissioner's compliance notice is a statutory duty for the Council.

Crime and Disorder Implications

8. There are no Crime and Disorder implications.

Equal Opportunities Implications (to include Welsh Language issues)

9. The intention of the standards is to promote the use of Welsh by the organisations to which they apply.

Corporate/Service Objectives

10. The Council's Corporate Plan for 2016-20, under Objective 6, "Valuing culture and diversity", has an action to "implement the Welsh Language Standards to improve access to services and information".

Policy Framework and Budget

11. This is a matter for Executive decision.

Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)

12. Not applicable

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

13. Corporate Performance and Resources

Background Papers

Cabinet report "Welsh Language Standards - Compliance Notice for the Council" dated 14 December 2015

Contact Officer

Huw Isaac - Head of Performance and Development

Officers Consulted

Corporate Management Team

Responsible Officer:

Rob Thomas - Managing Director