

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CABINET: 21ST JUNE, 2021

REFERENCE FROM LEARNING AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 10TH JUNE, 2021

“ WELSH LANGUAGE STANDARDS ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2020-21 (MD) –

The report apprised Committee on the progress made against the Welsh Language Standards in the Annual Welsh Language Monitoring Report 2020/21 (Appendix 1 to the report) and against the actions in the Council's Promotional Strategy for the Vale of Glamorgan during 2020/21 (Appendix 2 to the report) and summarised the main areas where progress had been made and provided annual updates as required by the Welsh Language Commissioner.

The report requested Committee's views on the appendices to refer to Cabinet for their consideration and approval prior to publishing the Annual Welsh Language Monitoring Report 2020/21 by 30th June, 2021.

Following the Head of Policy and Business Transformation's presentation of the report, Councillor Hodges thanked the Officer and noted it was good to see progress had been made despite the COVID-19 pandemic. The Councillor then referred to action 3.5 within the Council's Welsh Language Promotion Strategy, to 'Consider the possibility of establishing a Welsh Language Centre in the Vale', and noted that a target had been set to carry out a feasibility study by September 2018. The Councillor asked whether the Officer had any further information regarding this matter, and suggested it was an action which Cabinet needed to progress more strongly. The Officer confirmed that he would obtain further information on this matter and ensure it was circulated to Members.

In response to further queries from Members, the Officer advised of the following:

- A Linguistic Skills audit of the Council was due to be undertaken during the next quarter and this would feed into the next version of the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy;
- According to the report 122 of 1572 (6%) Council employees who responded to the previous Linguistic Skills survey (2018) had indicated they had Welsh language skills, in comparison to 21% of Vale of Glamorgan residents. This highlighted the need to refresh this information in order to inform the Strategy.

There being no further comments or queries it was subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T the contents of the report and Appendices 1 and 2 be noted.

(2) T H A T the report (including appendices) be referred to Cabinet for consideration and approval of the Annual Welsh Language Monitoring Report 2020/21 (Appendix 1) for publication by 30th June, 2021.

(3) T H A T Committee's comments regarding the need to progress more strongly the consideration of establishing a Welsh Language Centre in the Vale be forwarded to Cabinet for their consideration.

Reasons for Recommendations

(1) Having regard to the contents of the presentation and discussions at the meeting.

(2) To allow the Council to meet its reporting duty to the Welsh Commissioner as part of the Welsh Language Standards by publishing the Annual Welsh Language Monitoring Report 2020/21.

(3) To ensure the views of the Committee are considered prior to approval of the Annual Welsh Language Monitoring Report 2020/21 (Appendix 1).”