



CABINET - 19TH JUNE 2012

SUBJECT: THE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL WELSH LANGUAGE IMPROVEMENT AND MONITORING REPORT 2011-2012

REPORT BY: DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval from Cabinet of the draft Welsh Language Annual Monitoring and Improvement Report, for submission to the Welsh Language Commissioner by the deadline date of 29th June 2012.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The former Welsh Language Board (which came to an end on 31st March 2012) required that all public bodies that have an agreed Welsh Language Scheme, must submit an annual report to them (in a prescribed format since 2007) detailing the progress and developments made during the previous financial year against the improvement targets within that scheme, and noting any areas of good practice and/or problem areas that will require further action.
- 2.2 The Welsh Language Commissioner took over the statutory functions from the Welsh Language Board from 1st April 2012.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 Monitoring of the Welsh Language Scheme is done internally by -
- analysis of the cross-cutting Equalities section in annual Service Improvement Plans, specific monitoring of areas relating to the various targets in the Welsh Language Scheme,
 - externally commissioned monitoring surveys.
- 3.2 It also has direct links with a number of other current council policies and strategies including:-
- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Community Strategy | • CYPP Plan |
| • Strategic Equality Plan | • IT Strategy |
| • Recruitment and Selection | • Customer Care |
| • Workforce Development | • Freedom of Information |

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The draft annual report is attached in full as an appendix for information.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The monitoring report is for information only, as it refers to work already undertaken during the financial year 2011-2012 during the final year of the previous Welsh Language Scheme, therefore no impact assessment has been carried out on it. There are no potential equalities implications of this report and its recommendations on groups or individuals who fall under the categories identified in Section 6 of the Council's Strategic Equality Plan.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no financial implications to this report as the work programme already forms part of continued implementation of the Welsh Language Scheme and the Strategic Equality Plan.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no immediate personnel implications, although this will need to be regularly reviewed in the future as the new Welsh Language Standards are introduced.

8. CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The draft report is an information report based on data gathered on implementing the Welsh Language Scheme during 2011-2012, however it was circulated to the officers shown at the end of this report in order for them to contribute specific reporting information for different sections of the Annual Monitoring and Improvement Report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approve the report and its submission to the Welsh Language Commissioner by the national deadline of 29th June 2012.

10. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 The Welsh Language Scheme is a statutory scheme and part of the council's policy framework, and the report demonstrates progress against the agreed targets.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Monitoring of the implementation of the Welsh Language Scheme being reported on was required under the Welsh Language Act 1993.

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Background Papers - Welsh Language Scheme 2009-2012
Strategic Equality Plan 2011
(These are available electronically for information if requested)

Appendix - Welsh Language Scheme Annual Monitoring and Improvement Report 2011/12