



POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 20TH JANUARY 2009

SUBJECT: THE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL WELSH LANGUAGE MONITORING AND IMPROVEMENT REPORT - FEEDBACK FROM THE WELSH LANGUAGE BOARD

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform members of the positive comments received as feedback from the Welsh Language Board on the Council's 2007/08 Monitoring and Improvement report,

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Welsh Language Board requires that all public bodies that have an agreed Welsh Language Scheme must submit an annual report to them (in a prescribed format) 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.
- 2.2 The Council's last report was approved and submitted to the Welsh Language Board on 30th June 2008. This report notes the Board's response.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 Monitoring of the Welsh Language Scheme is done internally by examining the cross-cutting Equalities section in annual Service Improvement Plans, by specific monitoring of areas relating to the various targets in the scheme, and also via externally commissioned monitoring surveys.

- 3.2 It also has direct links with a number of other council policies and strategies:-

- Community Strategy
- Linguistic Skills Strategy
- Equalities
- Staff Development
- Freedom of Information
- E-Government
- Customer Care
- Recruitment and Selection

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The full feedback report is attached as an appendix for information.
- 4.2 It should be noted however that annual reports have been submitted by this Authority since the first report was done for 1998/99 and that this latest feedback is the most positive response from the Welsh Language Board in that time.

4.3 As was noted at the time the Council's report was approved by Cabinet in June 2008, this is due to the fact that a number of long-terms projects, such as the language monitoring on the payroll system, have finally come in to full operation and so a number of significant achievements were listed.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no financial implications to this information report.

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no personnel implications to this information report.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 It is recommended that members note the positive feedback from the Welsh Language Board.

8. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The Welsh Language Scheme is part of the council's policy framework and the annual report demonstrated significant progress against agreed targets.

9. STATUTORY POWER

9.1 Monitoring of the implementation of the Welsh Language Scheme is required under the Welsh Language Act 1993.

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Background Papers:

Welsh Language Scheme Annual Report 2007/2008 (*this is available electronically for information if requested*)