



## POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 9TH JUNE 2009

**SUBJECT: THE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL WELSH LANGUAGE MONITORING AND IMPROVEMENT REPORT 2008/09**

**REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform members of the progress made during 2008/09 against targets in the Council's current Welsh Language Scheme, prior to submitting the report to the Welsh Language Board by the deadline date of 30th June 2009.

### 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.

### 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 draft annual report is attached in full as an appendix for information.

### 5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 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 Linguistic Skills Strategy.

## **6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no immediate personnel implications, although this will need to be regularly reviewed in the future as work specified in the Scheme continues.

## **7. CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 The draft report was circulated to the consultees (shown at the end of this report) on 7th May 2009. The comments received by the closing date of 18<sup>th</sup> May have been reflected in the amended draft being presented here.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 It is recommended that members note the content of the report and approve its submission to the Welsh Language Board.

## **9. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 The Welsh Language Scheme is part of the council's policy framework and the report demonstrates progress against the agreed targets.

## **10. STATUTORY POWER**

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

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Consultees Executive Equalities Group -  
(chaired by Nigel Barnett, Director of Corporate Services, with representation from Cabinet, Personnel, Communications, Performance, Policy and Heads of Service from each Directorate)

Welsh Language Equalities Group -  
(chaired by Pat Mears, Chief Planning Officer)

Background Papers - Welsh Language Scheme 2005-2008  
Linguistic Skills Strategy 2007  
(These are available electronically for information if requested)