

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

WELSH LANGUAGE CABINET STEERING GROUP

19TH JUNE 2017

**WELSH LANGUAGE STANDARDS COMPLIANCE REPORT
TO THE WELSH LANGUAGE COMMISSIONER
2016 – 2017**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND LIFELONG
LEARNING IN DISCUSSION WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER
CLLR G. HOPKINS**

AUTHORS: Wendy Edwards, Head of Community Learning (01443 744111)
Steffan Gealy, Service Manager, Welsh Language Services
(01443 570002)

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide the Welsh Language Steering Group with a copy of the Welsh Language Standards Compliance Report 2016 – 2017.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Welsh Language Cabinet Steering Group:

- 2.1 Note the content of the report;
- 2.2 Recommend the report for publication on Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's website and made available in each of the authority's offices that are open to the public by no later than 30 June 2017.
- 2.3 Make arrangements for publicising the fact that the annual report has been published.



3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Standards 158, 164 and 170 of the Compliance Notice issued under section 44 of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 requires the Council to produce a report (an “annual report”) in relation to each financial year which deals with the way in which the Council has complied with:

- the service delivery standards with which the Council were under a duty to comply during the year in question
- the policy making standards with which the Council were under a duty to comply during the year in question
- the operational standards with which the Council were under a duty to comply during the year in question

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 Rhondda Cynon Taf received its final Compliance Notice from the Welsh Language Commissioner on 30th September 2015 which outlined the Council’s duty to meet 171 of the statutory Welsh Language Standards established by the Welsh Government under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. An application to challenge 14 of the Standards was presented to the Commissioner on 29 March 2016.

4.2 The first Welsh Language Standards implementation date was the 30th of March 2016. As such, last year’s report only covered the first two days of implementing the Standards (the 30th and 31st of March 2016.)

4.3 This year’s report provides information on the first full year of implementing the Standards and unlike past annual reports under the Council’s Welsh Language Scheme which needed to be formally submitted to the Welsh Language Commissioner, is instead, required to be published on the Council’s website and made available in each of the Council’s offices that are open to the public no later than 30 June 2017.

4.4 The Council is also under statutory duty to publicise the fact that it has published an annual report.

4.5. As well as complying with the aforementioned Standards in 3.1, this year’s annual report must include the following:

- (1) the number of complaints that you received during the year which relates to the Council's compliance with the (i) service delivery (ii) policy making (iii) operational standards with which it was under a duty to comply*
- (2) the number of employees who have Welsh language skills at the end of the year in question*
- (3) the number of members of staff who attended training courses you offered in Welsh during the year in question*
- (4) the percentage of the total number of staff who attended training courses you offered in Welsh during the year in question*
- (5) the number of new and vacant posts that you advertised during the year which were categorised as posts where - (i) Welsh language skills were essential, (ii) Welsh language skills needed to be learnt when appointed to the post, (iii) Welsh language skills were desirable, or (iv) Welsh language skills were not necessary during the year in question.*

5. NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 If the Welsh Language Cabinet Steering Group decides to recommend the Language Standards Compliance Report for approval, it will be published, disseminated and publicised according to Standards 158, 164 and 170.
- 5.2 It is anticipated that the Welsh Language Commissioner will feedback on the annual report with recommendations during the autumn.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 A consultation process was not required for this report, although all service areas contributed data to the report via their service self-evaluations.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 8.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report. However, there may be costs and resources as yet not fully ascertained in respect of implementation of any recommendations by Welsh Language Commissioner as well as continued implementation of the 171 Standards. Non-compliance with a standard could incur financial penalties of up to £5,000.



9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 9.1 Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and Welsh Language Statutory Standards 2015 regulate this area of work.

10. LINKS TO THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 10.1 The Welsh language is a cross-cutting theme in the Corporate Plan and underpins all corporate priorities as the Council is required to comply with the amended Compliance Notice issued by the Welsh Language Commissioner in September 2016.

11. CONCLUSION

- 11.1 This is the second annual monitoring report published by the Council in respect of the way it has complied with the statutory Standards with which it under duty to comply with under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and although it is recognised that further work must be done, the report outlines the good progress made by service areas in embedding arrangements for delivering services through the medium of Welsh.