

WELSH LANGUAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT TOOL

This Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIS) tool enables RCT Council to consider the principles and requirements of the [Welsh Language Standards \(No.1\) Regulations 2015](#) to ensure compliance with the [Welsh Language \(Wales\) Measure 2011](#).

Stage 1 – Information Gathering	
NOTE: As you complete this tool you will be asked for evidence to support your views . Please see Welsh Language Impact Assessment Guidance for more information on data sources.	
Proposal Name:	PROPOSED EXTENSION TO RHONDDA CYNON TAF CBC'S DOG CONTROL PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDERS
Department	Public Health, Protection and Communities/ Frontline Services/ Legal & Democratic Services
Service Director	Louise Davies/ Roger Waters/ Andy Wilkins
Officer Completing the WLIA	Andy Wilkins
Email	Andrew.s.wilkins@rctcbc.gov.uk
Phone	01443 424105
Brief Description	<p>The two Public Spaces Protection Orders related to dog controls within Rhondda Cynon Taf are due to expire on the 30th September 2023. At any point before expiry of these orders, the Council can vary or extend them by up to three years if it considers it necessary to prevent the original behaviour from occurring or recurring.</p> <p>The proposal, subject to the necessary consultation prescribed in legislation, is to extend those orders and to authorise officers to publicise the proposed orders as required by the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.</p>
Date	3 rd July 2023 / revised post consultation 3 rd September 2023
Please outline who this proposal affects?	<input type="radio"/> Service users ✓

**(Service Users, Employees,
Wider Community)**

- Employees ✓ (in the context of those officers who administer and enforce the Dog Control PSPO's)
- Wider community ✓ (including residents and those who work in the County Borough and visit it)

<p>What are the aims of the policy, and how do these relate to the Welsh Language?</p>	<p>Dog fouling remains a significant concern for the Council and for those who live, work and visit the County Borough.</p> <p>Dog Fouling is unpleasant and is a serious risk to human health, particularly amongst children.</p> <p>The Public Spaces Protection Orders in relation to dog controls has allowed the Council to introduce a range of reasonable and proportionate restrictions on the use of publicly accessible land across the County Borough and helped control the harmful activities of irresponsible dog owners whilst allowing responsible dog owners to continue to exercise their dogs without undue restrictions.</p> <p>Despite the introduction of the orders in October 2017 and their renewal in October 2020 there remains a minority of dog owners who do not clean up after their dogs or keep them under control. Officers therefore consider it vital the orders, which would ordinarily expire on 30th September 2023, are renewed for a further three year period in order to maintain the significant benefits the orders have had in relation to dog fouling and ensure appropriate powers remain in place to deal with the minority who continue to flout the laws</p> <p>The Cabinet report can be found here (Agenda Item 6).</p> <p>There are no specific links as to the use of the Welsh Language in respect of the proposal – Signs that are used to transmit the details of the Dog Control PSPO to the public in relevant locations are all bilingual and will remain so should the PSPO be extended. Fixed Penalty Notices are also issued bilingually.</p>
<p>Who will benefit / Could the policy affect Welsh language groups? If so, list them here.</p>	<p>All members of the public who live, work and visit the County Borough benefit from a safer, cleaner environment as a result of reduced dog fouling and dogs being kept under control. The proposal will not specifically affect Welsh Language groups.</p>
<p>Current linguistic profile of the geographical area(s) concerned</p>	<p>The 2021 Census figures regarding the Welsh language show a decrease in the percentage of Welsh speakers across Wales to 17.8%. There was, however, a small increase in RCT – the percentage of the population of the county borough who can speak Welsh increased from 12.3% to 12.4%. Numerically, RCT saw a 2.8% increase in the number of Welsh speakers in the county borough, from 27,779 speakers to 28,556 speakers. RCT was also one of only four LAs in Wales to see an increase in the percentage of Welsh speakers – the others were Cardiff, the Vale of Glamorgan and Merthyr Tudful. All of these are neighbouring</p>

	<p>county boroughs, which could demonstrate that our region is seeing some positive trends in terms of increases in Welsh speakers, and that there may be a resulting increase in demand for services through the medium of Welsh. As further, more detailed, data from the Census becomes available for RCT (e.g. LSOA data), we will need to consider what impact it may have on the services we provide.</p>
<p>Other relevant data or research</p>	<p>A public consultation exercise in relation to the proposal ran from 10th July 2023 until 18th August 2023.</p> <p>The aim of the consultation was to gather the views of residents and other relevant bodies and interested parties on proposals to renew a Public Spaces Protection Order, with regards to dog fouling in Rhondda Cynon Taf.</p> <p>The consultation used an online survey which was built using Snap XMP. The survey aimed to gain feedback on the proposals.</p> <p>To ensure wide outreach and involvement of the wider community the consultation was promoted on the Councils consultation webpage to encourage engagement. A short video was created outlining the key elements of the PSPO, this was placed on the webpage and also shared on social media sites.</p> <p>An email was also sent to key stakeholders to promote the consultation and encourage participation, including the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - South Wales Police and Police & Crime Commissioner - Sports Clubs/Leisure 4 life App 12000 active users - Neighbouring local Authorities - Schools - Councillors/MPs/SMs - RSPCA, Kennel Club etc. - Neighbourhood Networks <p>Posters were placed in in a number of key local parks, leisure centres and community centres.</p> <p>A telephone consultation option was in place, through the Council’s contact centre. This option allows people to discuss their views or request consultation materials. Individual call backs were available on request and a consultation Freepost address provided an option for postal responses.</p>

Respondents were encouraged to write in using a dedicated email address consultation@rctcbc.gov.uk, in order to allow them to share their views. Overall, there were a total of 5 emails/letters received from the public relating to the consultation.

The proposals were presented and discussed at the [Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 17th July 2023](#).

Overall, 319 survey responses and 5 emails/letters were received to the consultation.

The full consultation report , outlining the key findings and feedback from the consultation process included the emerging issues/themes will be appended to the Cabinet report put before Members prior to any decisions made in respect of the proposal to extending the dog control pspos for a further three year period.

88.3% of respondents to the online survey said they supported the Council's approach to dealing with dog fouling.

There was wide scale support, with over 89% of respondents agreeing with each of the elements of the Dog Control PSPOs and that they should be continued over the next 3 years.

The following question was specifically asked as part of the survey

The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 makes provision for the specification of standards of conduct in relation to the Welsh language and consequently the Council has a legal duty to look at how its decisions impact on the Welsh Language.

Please let us know how you feel the proposal could impact opportunities for people to use and promote the Welsh Language (Positive or Negative) and if in any way it treats the Welsh Language less favourably than the English Language?

Stage 2 – Impact Assessment

In this section you need to consider the impact, the evidence and any action you are taking for improvement. This is to ensure that the opportunities for people who choose to live their lives and access services through the medium of Welsh are not inferior to what is afforded to those choosing to do so in English, in accordance with the requirement of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

Please note there is a separate impact assessment for Equality and Socio-Economic duty that must also be completed for policy proposals.

Remember that effects that are positive for some groups could be detrimental to others - even among Welsh language groups. Consider the effects on different groups. For example, a proposal may be beneficial to Welsh learners, but not to Welsh speakers.

Previous Welsh Language Impact Assessments can be found on Inform by [clicking here](#).

Will the proposed action affect any or all of the following?

	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts?	Describe why it will have a positive/negative or neutral impact on the Welsh language.	What evidence do you have to support this view?	What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p>Opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language</p> <p>e.g. staff, residents and visitors</p> <p>The rights of Welsh speakers and learners to use Welsh when dealing with the council and for staff to use Welsh at Work</p>	Positive	Whilst there are no specific impacts on the use of the Welsh Language as a result of this proposal, the signs that are used to transmit the details of the Dog Control PSPO to the public in relevant locations are all bilingual and will remain so should the PSPO be extended.	<p>Welsh Language Promotional Strategy</p> <p>Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 Strategy</p> <p>Consultation feedback included comments such as</p>	<p>Support Welsh Language training and look at improving the number of bilingual Environmental Enforcement Officers.</p> <p>Pro-active recruitment of Welsh speakers to undertake the Enforcement Officer role.</p>

			<p><i>"I don't believe there would be any detrimental impact on Cymraeg, provided the Council continues to maintain its bilingual provision."</i></p> <p>Some respondents indicated that <i>'bilingual signage should show the Welsh translated first'</i></p>	
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Stage 2 – Impact Assessment

Will the proposed action affect any or all of the following?

	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts?	Describe why it will have a positive/negative or neutral impact on the Welsh language.	What evidence do you have to support this view?	What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p>Numbers and / or percentages of Welsh speakers e.g. Welsh Medium Education / Study Opportunities. Links with the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 Strategy / RCTCBC Five Year Welsh Language Strategy</p>	Positive	Whilst there are no specific impacts on increasing the number/percentage of Welsh Speakers as a result of this proposal, the signs that are used to transmit the details of the Dog Control PSPO to the public in relevant locations are all bilingual and will remain so should the PSPO be extended.	<p>Welsh Language Promotional Strategy</p> <p>Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 Strategy</p>	<p>Support Welsh Language training and look at improving the number of bilingual Environmental Enforcement Officers.</p> <p>Pro-active recruitment of Welsh speakers to undertake the Enforcement Officer role.</p>

<p>Opportunities to promote the Welsh language e.g. status, use of Welsh language services, use of Welsh in everyday life in work and in the community</p> <p>Actively encourage and promote the use of our services in Welsh to see an increase in demand over time</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>Whilst there are no specific impacts on increasing opportunities to use the Welsh Language as a result of this proposal, the signs that are used to transmit the details of the Dog Control PSPO to the public in relevant locations are all bilingual and will remain so should the PSPO be extended.</p>	<p>Welsh Language Promotional Strategy</p> <p>Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 Strategy</p> <p>Consultation feedback included comments such as</p> <p><i>"I don't believe there would be any detrimental impact on Cymraeg, provided the Council continues to maintain its bilingual provision."</i></p> <p>Some respondents indicated that <i>'bilingual signage should show the Welsh translated first'</i></p>	<p>Support Welsh Language training and look at improving the number of bilingual Environmental Enforcement Officers.</p> <p>Pro-active recruitment of Welsh speakers to undertake the Enforcement Officer role</p>
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Stage 2 – Impact Assessment

Will the proposed action affect any or all of the following?

	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts?	Describe why it will have a positive/negative or neutral impact on the Welsh language.	What evidence do you have to support this view?	What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p>Compliance with the Council's Statutory Welsh Language Standards</p> <p>e.g. increasing or reducing the Council's ability to deliver services through the Medium of Welsh.</p> <p>Consider the rights of Welsh speakers to use Welsh when dealing with the Council and for staff to use Welsh at Work</p>	Positive	Signs that are used to transmit the details of the Dog Control PSPO to the public in relevant locations are all bilingual and will remain so should the PSPO be extended.	<p>Existing signs already installed in respect of those locations which are covered by the current version of the Dog Control PSPOs</p> <p>Consultation feedback included comments such as</p> <p><i>"I don't believe there would be any detrimental impact on Cymraeg, provided the Council continues to maintain its bilingual provision."</i></p> <p>Some respondents indicated that <i>'bilingual signage should show the Welsh translated first'</i></p>	<p>Support Welsh Language training and look at improving the number of bilingual Environmental Enforcement Officers.</p> <p>Pro-active recruitment of Welsh speakers to undertake the Enforcement Officer role</p>
Treating the Welsh language, no less	Neutral	Signs that are used to transmit the details of the Dog Control	Existing signs already installed in respect of those locations which	Support Welsh Language training and

favourably than the English language		PSPO to the public in relevant locations are all bilingual and will remain so should the PSPO be extended.	are covered by the current version of the Dog Control PSPOs	look at improving the number of bilingual Environmental Enforcement Officers. Pro-active recruitment of Welsh speakers to undertake the Enforcement Officer role
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Stage 3 - Strengthening the proposal

Having listed actions in section 2 which may mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts – please record below which ones you will imbed into the policy proposal and who will be responsible for them.

Also consider is the proposal necessary? Would it be possible to meet demand without any new developments? Could other existing provision be used? Where should the development be?

What are you going to do?	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible?
Support Welsh Language training and look at improving the number of bilingual Environmental Enforcement Officers. Look at positive recruitment e.g. targeting Welsh job sites, Welsh classes	Ongoing	Director of Frontline Services

If ways of reducing the impact have been identified but are not possible to implement, please explain why. Give sufficient detail of data or research that has led to your reasoning.

What was identified?	Why is it not possible?
Guaranteeing Welsh speaking staff in order to be able to engage in the language choice of the members of the public, including any communication with regards to issuing of fines	Current staffing structure of service need to improve Welsh language skills / capacity before implementation.

Stage 4 – Review

For all policy proposals, whether it is a Significant Key Decision or not, you are required to forward this assessment to Welsh Language services – welshlanguageofficer@rctcbc.gov.uk and the Consultation and Engagement team – consultation@rctcbc.gov.uk in the first instance for some initial guidance and feedback.

As part of the Welsh Language, Equalities and Socio Economic Duty Impact Assessment Process all proposals that fall within the definition of Significant Key Decision should present at the Officer Review Panel. This panel is made up of officers from across Council Services and acts as a critical friend before your report is finalised and published for SLT/Cabinet approval.

If this proposal is a Key Strategic Decision please forward your completed (Stage 1>6) impact assessment, policy proposal/report and consultation report to CouncilBusiness@rctcbc.gov.uk for an Officer Review Panel to be organised to discuss your proposal. [See our guidance document](#) for more information on what a Significant Key Decision is.

It is important to keep a record of this process so that we can demonstrate how we have considered and built in sustainable Welsh language considerations wherever possible. Please ensure you update the relevant sections below in collaboration with the relevant departments.

Welsh Language Services Comments	Date Considered	Brief description of any amendments made following Welsh Language Services feedback
Welsh Language Services advise you to explore the options available to the targeted recruitment of Welsh speakers. Welsh Language Services advise you to ensure that that the process of issuing fines, from beginning to end, including any challenge to any payments etc. is available in both languages.	4 th July 2023	Amendments incorporated into draft of impact assessment prior to presentation at the review panel.
Officer Review Panel Comments	Date Considered	Brief description of any amendments made following Officer Review Panel considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The proposal is unlikely to have a direct effect on the Welsh Language or Welsh Language groups;	5 th September 2023	Final decision subject to Cabinet Decision – no proposed amendments suggested by officers to what was originally consulted upon following review panel

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An opportunity to include the consultation response which addresses the need for any related paperwork to be offered bilingually and that any verbal agreement from officers could be made verbally in both languages. This could be possible if more Welsh Language speaking staff were employed by the Council or if the current staff learned the language; and • It notes the proposal will have a neutral effect, but you could argue that just extending the policy would have a positive impact as it makes the language more visible throughout RCT. 		
Consultation Comments	Date Considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consultation
No specific comments	5 th September 2023	Final decision subject to Cabinet Decision – no proposed amendments suggested by officers to what was originally consulted upon following review panel

Stage 5 – Monitoring, Evaluating and Reviewing

How and who will you monitor the impact and effectiveness of the proposal?

The Council's Cabinet will consider the Consultation Report (together with impact assessments) and decide, based on the feedback, whether to proceed with the proposal, amend the proposal or not proceed with the proposal. If the Council's Cabinet decides not to proceed, the Dog Control PSPO's would not be renewed and their relevant provisions fall away. If the Council's Cabinet approve the proposal, it will mean the Dog Control PSPOs will be extended for a further three year period from 1st October 2023. Should Cabinet determine to extend the Dog Control PSPOs their effectiveness will be monitored by the relevant service departments using feedback received from service users and data, such as the annual Keep Wales Tidy report. Legislation requires the PSPOS to be reviewed every three years if they are to be renewed or varied. However feedback received in relation to the PSPOs during the intervening

period is used by the relevant services to inform their approach to things such as enforcement and educational/press campaigns in respect dog fouling. All feedback received following any extension and subsequent extensions is used to inform that renewal process as is the case now.

Stage 6 – Summary of Impacts for the Proposal

Provide below a summary of the impact assessment, to include some of the main positive and negative impacts along with an overview of actions taken since the impact assessment to better contribute to more positive impacts. This summary must be included in the Welsh Language Considerations section of the SLT/Cabinet report template. It is not suitable to only write 'please see full report at Appendix x' in the body of the report. The impact assessment must be published alongside the report.

A Welsh Language Impact Assessment has been completed and the main findings are as follows -

Whilst, as a result of this proposal, there are no specific impacts on

- (i) the use of the Welsh Language;
- (ii) increasing the number/percentage of Welsh Speakers; and
- (iii) increasing opportunities to use the Welsh Language

the signs that are used to transmit the details of the Dog Control PSPO to the public in relevant locations are all bilingual and will remain so should the PSPO be extended

The majority of comments received through the consultation exercise survey responses agreed there was/would be no specific impact on the Welsh Language in the context of (i) – (iii) above.

There will be more Welsh seen (signage) and possibly heard (more officers issuing fines in Wales as part of improvements) and possibly even in the back office process of any appeals process. This is a positive and will make the language more visible in RCT.

Evidence used to support this conclusion includes the Welsh Language Promotional Strategy, Welsh Government's [Cymraeg 2050 Strategy](#)

and Consultation feedback which included comments such as

“I don’t believe there would be any detrimental impact on Cymraeg, provided the Council continues to maintain its bilingual provision.”

Actions that can be taken to better contribute to positive future impacts include:

- (i) Supporting Welsh Language training and look at improving the number of bilingual Environmental Enforcement Officers; and
- (ii) Pro-active recruitment of Welsh speakers to undertake the Enforcement Officer role. Look at positive recruitment e.g. targeting Welsh job sites, Welsh classes

This approach was also supported by a consultation response:

Pe tai cynrychiolwyr/ staff yCyngor sydd gyfrifol o oruchwylio'r mesurau ac sy'n rhyngweithio gyda'r cyhoedd yn medru'r Gymraeg ni fyddai cynnig yn cael effaith negyddol ar yr iaith. Ond os na fyddai hyn yn bosibl mi ragwelaif y cynnig yn cael effaith negyddol ar y Gymraeg.

If Council representatives/staff who are responsible for overseeing the measures and who interact with the public know Welsh, the proposal would not have a negative impact on the language. But if this were not possible I foresee the proposal having a negative effect on the Welsh language.

The Welsh Language Service advise officers ensure that that the process of issuing fines, from beginning to end, including any challenge to any payments etc. is available in both languages. FPNs are issued bilingually.

Stage 7 – Sign Off

Name of Officer completing the WLIA	Andy Wilkins	Service Director Name:	Andy Wilkins
Position	Director of Legal & Democratic Services	I recommend that the proposal: (Highlight decision)	Is implemented with no amendments

		Is implemented taking into account the mitigating actions outlined ✓	
		Is rejected due to disproportionate negative impacts on the Welsh language	
Signature		Service Director Signature	A S WILKINS
Date		Date	9 th September 2023