

## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **WELSH LANGUAGE CABINET STEERING GROUP**

**28 NOVEMBER 2017**

#### **WELSH: WHAT'S CHANGED? A DETAILED GUIDE FOR: COMMISSIONED PARTNERS**

#### **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER, COUNCILLOR G HOPKINS**

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#### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide the Welsh Language Steering Group with an update on the progress made on the project to support Partners commissioned by the Council in their requirement to meet all relevant statutory Standards as noted in the Statutory Compliance Notice under the Welsh Language Standards (No. 1) Regulations 2015.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Welsh Language Steering Group:

- 2.1 Note the content of the report;
- 2.2 Consider and comment on the information provided;
- 2.3 Approve the *“Welsh: What’s Changed? A detailed guide for: Commissioned Partners”* booklet.

#### **3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The booklet provides users with a useful guide of the Welsh Language Standards. The booklet is user friendly, includes tips and methods of good practice. It is believed that it will encourage compliance with the Welsh Language Standards which will help promote, facilitate and normalise the use of the Welsh language in RCT.

#### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council received a final Compliance Notice from the Welsh Language Commissioner on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015 which outlined the Council's duty to meet 171 of the Statutory Welsh Language Standards under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.
- 4.2 Graduate officers (K Herbert and G Colombo De Menezes) were assigned to a project to support the Council by creating a delivery plan that identifies how the recommendations made in the 'Welsh language services within tackling poverty programmes in RCT' can be addressed to support the Council's wider 5 year strategy for promoting the Welsh language in RCT.
- 4.3 Extensive research was performed throughout the early stages of the project. Results showed that there was little understanding of the Welsh Language Standards possessed by many of the voluntary organisations commissioned by RCT, and promotion of the language would be difficult to achieve due to the demographic of RCT.
- 4.4 A recommendation made by the graduate officers was to create an information pack and distribute to all commissioned partners. The original information pack included compliance guidelines and cultural factors, but the Welsh Language Cabinet Steering Group suggested that a more streamlined resource would be more beneficial. These comments were taken into account and a revised draft of the information pack was created; *Welsh: What's Changed? A detailed guide for: Commissioned Partners*.
- 4.5 *Welsh: What's Changed? A detailed guide for: Commissioned Partners* includes;
- A summary of the Welsh Language Standards and what they mean;
  - The five areas of the Standards;
  - An outline which Standards are applicable to those Commissioned providers. This guide will provide users with an adequate understanding of the Standards along with useful tips and contact details.

#### **5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no Equality and Diversity implications as a result of this report.

#### **6. CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 A consultation process was not required for this report.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

- 7.1 The Welsh Language Services Unit have agreed to pay the design and printing costs for the booklet and also pick up incidental translation work from Commissioned partners. Otherwise, it will be expected that Commissioned Partners will cover any costs in relation to operating in line with the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards.

## **8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

- 8.1 Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and The Welsh Language Standards (No. 1) Regulations 2015 currently regulate this area of work.

## **9. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

- 9.1 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.

## **10. CONCLUSION**

- 10.1 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council will continue to support and implement the Standards in their current legislative form and in line with any new legislation. The Council will also continue to seek ways to promote the language within the local communities.
- 10.2 The proposed booklet *Welsh: What's changed? A detailed guide for: Commissioned Partners* demonstrates the Council's efforts to ensure compliance across all sectors and throughout all commissioned work. The Council will work alongside all external providers and offer support and guidance where applicable.