



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**WELSH LANGUAGE CABINET STEERING GROUP**

**14 MAY 2018**

**WELSH LANGUAGE STANDARDS COMPLIANCE REPORT  
TO THE WELSH LANGUAGE COMMISSIONER  
2017 – 2018**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND LIFELONG  
LEARNING IN DISCUSSION WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER  
CLLR 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 a copy of the Welsh Language Standards Compliance Report 2017 – 2018.

**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 2018.
- 2.3 Approve 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 introduced by the Welsh Government under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

4.2 An application to challenge 14 of the Standards was presented to the Commissioner on 29 March 2016. This resulted in the imposition date for achievement of aspects of 3 of the standards (52, 58 and 64<sup>1</sup>) being postponed until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 so that progress against these are not included in this compliance report. Progress on the implementation of 52, 58 and 64 will be reported next year. (Compliance is expected to pose a significant challenge).

4.3 The report at Appendix 1 covers the second full year of the implementation of the standards – from 1 April 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018. The report must 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 2018.

4.4 The Council is under a 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:

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<sup>1</sup> Standard 52 – full compliance in respect of websites other than the corporate website was not required until 31/3/2018.

Standard 58 – full compliance in respect of social media other than the Council's main social media account was moved to 31/3/2018.

Standard 64 – areas defined as 'reception services' (for example, Libraries, Leisure centres etc) apart from the Council's main reception service was moved forward to 31/8/2018.

- (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 provide feedback on the annual report with recommendations during the autumn.

## **6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

## **7. CONSULTATION**

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)**

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. LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

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

## **10. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT**

- 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.
- 10.2 The Annual Compliance Report outlines the work undertaken by the Council to comply with the Welsh language statutory standards that will contribute to the Welsh Government's longer-term goal of 1 million Welsh speakers. The work undertaken to achieve these standards involves working collaboratively with partners and residents to facilitate a wide range of opportunities for the use of the Welsh language in communities across the county. Achievement of the standards will prevent complaints from residents who have been unable to access services in the Welsh language.
- 10.3 The content of this report is directly related to Goal 6 of the Well-being of Future Generations Act - a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Compliance with the standards will support the normalisation of the Welsh language and ensure that the Welsh language is treated no less favourably than the English language. It also contributes to the creation of a more equal Wales by providing opportunities for Welsh speakers to access Council services in the medium of Welsh if they so wish.

## **11. CONCLUSION**

This is the third annual report published by the Council in respect of the way it has complied with the statutory Standards with which it is under duty to comply with under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. The report outlines the good progress made by service areas in embedding arrangements for delivering services through the medium of Welsh. It is recognised that further work must be done, especially considering the need to meet the additional standards (52, 58 and 64).