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Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

FULL COUNCIL - INFORMATION REPORT

Date Written	11 th May 2021
Report Author	Angharad Jones
Service Area	Welsh Language
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	19 th May 2021

To: Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen

WELSH LANGUAGE ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT FOR 2020-2021

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The Council received its final Compliance Notice from the Welsh Language Commissioner on 30th September 2015. This outlined the Council's duty to meet the statutory Welsh Language Standards established by the Welsh Government under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.
- 1.2 The Standards require the Council to compile an Annual Report by 30th June of each year that deals with the way that it has complied with the Service Delivery, Policy Making and Operational Standards. Provision is also included within the Standards concerning publishing and publicity of the Annual Report.
- 1.3 The Welsh Language Annual Monitoring Report, attached as Appendix 1, reports upon the good progress that the Council continues to make towards complying with the Standards during financial year 2020-2021.

2.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council received its final Compliance Notice from the Welsh Language Commissioner on 30th September 2015. This outlined the Council's duty to meet the statutory Welsh Language Standards established by the Welsh Government under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

- 2.2 This Measure gave equal status to Welsh and English so that Welsh cannot be treated less favourably than English. The introduction of the Standards is designed to ensure that those in Wales who wish to live their lives in Welsh can do by obliging Councils, and other public sector bodies, to deliver their services in Welsh.

Annual Reporting

- 2.3 The Welsh Language Standards require the Council to compile an Annual Report, in relation to each financial year, that deals with the way that it has complied with the Service Delivery, Policy Making and Operational Standards. Provision is also included within the Standards concerning publishing and publicity of the Annual Report.

3.0 WELSH LANGUAGE ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT FOR 2020-2021

- 3.1 The Council's Welsh Language Annual Monitoring Report for 2020-2021 attached as Appendix 1, reports upon the Council's progress towards complying with the Standards during financial year 2020-2021.
- 3.2 The Annual Report reports compliance towards the Standards that it is subject to by highlighting:
- Any investigations received from the Welsh Language Commissioner.
 - Information about complaints, Welsh skills of employees and Welsh language training.
 - The Welsh language activities planned/currently being undertaken across the Council, some of which are summarised below.

WELSH LANGUAGE PROGRAMME

The Council has developed a Welsh Language Programme structured around compliance with the Standards, translation and promotion of the Welsh language; it is made up of the following:

- Telephone and Reception
- Correspondence
- Social Media
- Website
- Welsh Language Training
- #Shwmaeronment Campaign
- Mystery Shopper Exercise
- Welsh Language Work Placement
- Welsh Language Translation
- Welsh Language Annual Reporting

The Welsh Language Programme forms part of the Council's Corporate Services work programme, supporting compliance with the Standards and delivery of the:

- Well-being Goal: A Wales of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language
- Council's Welsh Language Promotional Strategy and Welsh Government's Million Welsh Speakers Strategy



ASSESSING IMPACT

The annual report (appendix 1) explains how impacts are assessed as part of the Council's decision making process. It also shows how this is integrated, for example in our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) document that forms part of all our Cabinet and Council reports.

Implementing 5 Year Welsh Language Strategy and the Welsh Education Strategic Plan

The annual report shows the good work that we have achieved during one of our most challenging years, due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Programmes have continued but we have embraced new ways of working to allow us to do this. For example, we have used digital technology to hold key events and ensure we continue to promote the Welsh language and culture.



Programmes include:

- Urdd Eisteddfod T
- Being Bilingual Booklet
- Diwrnod Shwmae Su'mae
- Welsh Language Carol Concert
- #SHWMAERONMENT Event
- Integrated Children's Centre
- Dysgu Cymraeg Morgannwg / Learn Welsh Glamorgan
- Adult Community Learning - Welsh Language
- Welsh Word / Phase of the Fortnight
- Working Skills for Adults 2
- WELSH SPEAKING VOLUNTEERS
- Welsh Language Coffee Morning
- Welsh Language Champions Group
- Welsh Level 1

MEETINGS

It is now general practice to open all Council meetings in Welsh and the use of the Welsh language in all forms is encouraged by Senior Managers and Councillors alike.

The Council is an active member of Grŵp Deddf and regularly attend their meetings. Grŵp Deddf is a voluntary group consisting of Welsh Language Officers for public sector bodies who come under the compliance requirements of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. The aim of Grŵp Deddf is to discuss and share information and good practice on Welsh language.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

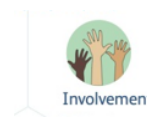
As part of the project there are partnerships in place with the following key stakeholders to provide opportunities to support and develop the Welsh language:



- Menter Iaith Merthyr Tudful
- Urdd
- Welsh and English medium schools in Merthyr Tydfil
- Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun
- Central South Consortium

- The Youth Service
- The College Merthyr Tydfil
- Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin
- Adult Community Learning

CLWB DYSGU CYMRAEG CALFARIA - Supported by the Council and the Council's Cabinet Member for Community Regeneration and Public Protection, a community Welsh class has been set up in the village of Heolgerrig in Merthyr Tydfil. The class is called Clwb Dysgu Cymraeg Calfaria that is owned and run by the community.



Since March 2020, it has not been possible to carry on with this Clwb event but this activity is resuming in summer 2021.

STANDARDS

The Annual report updates on how we are meeting the Welsh Language Standards, providing data in meeting our requirements.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no specific financial implications identified in this report. Any financial implications arising from projects/initiatives in this report will be presented to Cabinet/Council as appropriate, including potential options for funding.

5.0 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1

	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts	Neutral/Not Applicable
1. Merthyr Tydfil Well-being Objectives	4 of 4	0 of 4	0 of 4
2. Sustainable Development Principles - How have you considered the five ways of working? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term • Prevention • Integration • Collaboration • Involvement 	5 of 5	0 of 5	0 of 5
3. Protected Characteristics (including Welsh Language)	2 of 10	0 of 10	8 of 10
4. Socio-economic Disadvantage	0 of 6	0 of 6	6 of 6
5. Consultation and Engagement	Undertaken	Due to be Undertaken	Not Required
	0 of 1	0 of 1	1 of 1

6. Data and Evidence to inform the proposal	Yes		No	
	1 of 1		0 of 1	
7. Biodiversity and the resilience of Ecosystems	Maintained	Enhanced	Reduced	Neutral/Not Applicable
	0 of 1	0 of 1	0 of 1	1 of 1
Summary				
The main positive impacts are:	<p>The Council's Welsh Language Annual Monitoring Report for 2020-2021 positively impacts on the Council's Well-being Objectives, sustainable development principles, Welsh language and the protected characteristics.</p> <p>The Annual Report demonstrates the good progress that the Council continues to make towards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complying with the Welsh Language Standards; and • Delivering the Council's Welsh Language Promotional Strategy and Welsh Language Vision for Merthyr Tydfil which is a place that promotes the use of the Welsh language and treats the Welsh and English languages on the basis of equality. 			
The main negative impacts are:	No negative impacts have been identified.			

ELLIS COOPER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

COUNCILLOR ANDREW BARRY
CABINET MEMBER FOR GOVERNANCE
& CORPORATE SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?		No

Consultation has been undertaken with the Corporate Management Team in respect of each proposal(s) and recommendation(s) set out in this report.