

POLICY & RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

25th NOVEMBER 2015

Welsh Language Scheme – Annual Report 2014/15

To consider and comment on the following issues:

- To receive an update regarding the implementation of the Welsh Language Scheme during 2014/15.

Reasons:

- It is a statutory responsibility for the Authority to publish and administer a Welsh Language Scheme. One of the commitments within the Scheme is to provide an Annual Report to the Welsh Language Commissioner detailing the implementation of the Scheme during the previous financial year. The report is structured in accordance with guidance received from the Welsh Language Commissioner.
- To enable members to exercise their scrutiny role in relation to monitoring performance.

To be referred to the Executive Board / Council for decision: NO

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder:

Cllr. Mair Stephens (Human Resources, Efficiencies & Collaboration and Welsh Language Champion)

Directorate: Chief Executive's	Designations:	Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:
Name of Head of Service: Wendy Walters	Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration and Policy)	01267 224112 wswalters@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

POLICY & RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 25th NOVEMBER 2015

Cynllun Iaith Gymraeg – Adroddiad Blynyddol 2014/15 ***Welsh Language Scheme – Annual Report for 2014/15***

Adroddiad Blynyddol ar weithrediad Cynllun Iaith Gymraeg 2014/15 ***Annual Report on the implementation of the Welsh Language Scheme 2014/15***

This Annual Report on the Welsh Language Scheme has been produced in order to comply with the Welsh Language Commissioner's monitoring arrangements. The report includes the statutory and local indicators which measure compliancy with the Scheme.

The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 places a duty on county councils and county borough councils in Wales, national park authorities and Welsh Ministers to comply with standards in relation to the Welsh language.

The standards mean that the Welsh language must not be treated less favourably than the English language, and must also promote or facilitate the use of the Welsh language. This is in accordance with the two principles that form the basis of the Welsh Language Commissioner's work:

- in Wales, the Welsh language should be treated no less favourably than the English language
- persons in Wales should be able to live their lives through the medium of the Welsh language if they choose to do so.

Standards will replace the current system of Welsh language schemes. Standards will:

- provide greater clarity to organizations on their duties on the Welsh language
- provide greater clarity to Welsh speakers about the services they can expect to receive in Welsh
- ensure more consistency of Welsh language services and improve their quality.

The Welsh Language Commissioner gave Carmarthenshire County Council a compliance notice regarding the Welsh Language Standards Regulations on 30 September 2015 which requires CCC to comply with most of the standards by 31 March 2015.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Signed: Wendy Walters Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration & Policy)

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The new Compliance Notice received from the Welsh Language Commissioner on 30 September 2015 requires the Authority to comply with a new set of Standards by 31 March 2016.

2. Legal

Previously, statutory responsibilities were given to all public authorities to produce a Welsh Language Scheme through the Welsh Language Act 1993.

The Welsh Language Standards Regulations 2015 came into force on 31 March 2015. These Regulations replace the responsibilities placed on Carmarthenshire County Council under the Welsh Language Act 1993 and will be imposed on the Authority on 31 March 2016.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

Signed: Wendy Walters Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration & Policy)

1. Local Member(s) – N/A
2. Community / Town Council – N/A
3. Relevant Partners – N/A
4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – N/A

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW:

Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Welsh Language Scheme 2011-2014	<p>(Welsh version) http://www.sirgar.llyw.cymru/media/221234/cynllun-iaith-gymraeg-2011-14.pdf</p> <p>(English version) http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/68010/Welsh-Language-Scheme-2011-14.pdf</p>
Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011	<p>(Welsh version) http://www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2011/1/pdfs/mwa_20110001_we.pdf</p> <p>(English version) http://www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2011/1/pdfs/mwa_20110001_en.pdf</p>
Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh Language Standards – Compliance Notice	<p>(Welsh version) http://www.comisiynyddygyymraeg.cymru/Cymraeg/Rhestr%20Cyhoeddiadau/20150930%20Hysbysiad%20Cydydffurfio44%20Cyngor%20Sir%20G%C3%A2r%20(cy).pdf</p> <p>(English version) http://www.comisiynyddygyymraeg.cymru/English/Publications%20List/20150930%20Hysbysiad%20Cydydffurfio44%20Cyngor%20Sir%20G%C3%A2r%20(en).pdf</p>