

Cabinet
13th September 2021

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE WELSH LANGUAGE
2020-21

Recommendations / key decisions required:

1. To receive the annual report in relation to the Welsh language and compliance with the Welsh language Standards during 2020-21.

Reasons:

It is a statutory responsibility for the Authority to implement the Welsh language Standards. As part of the Standards, we must publish an Annual Report which outlines the implementation work.

Relevant scrutiny committee consulted Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee – YES – 23rd July 2021

Cabinet Decision Required YES

Council Decision Required NO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Cllr. Peter Hughes Griffiths (Culture, Sport, Tourism, and the Welsh Language)

Directorate: Chief Executive's

Name of Head of Service:

Noelwyn Daniel

Report Author:

Llinos Evans & Myfanwy Jones

Designations:

Head of ICT & Corporate Policy

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Annual Report on the Welsh language 2020-21

This Annual Report has been produced in order to comply with the Welsh Language Commissioner's monitoring arrangements. The Welsh Language Commissioner gave Carmarthenshire County Council a compliance notice regarding the Welsh Language Standards Regulations on 30 September 2015 which required CCC to comply with most of the standards by 31 March 2016.

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.

The Welsh language Standards have replaced the Welsh language schemes and will:

- provide greater clarity to organisations 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's Assurance Report 2019-20 notes that our performance was excellent in the provision of services through the medium of Welsh, with the only exception being self-service machines. With the county's parking payment machines currently being upgraded, this issue will soon be resolved.
- Areas sampled include correspondence, telephone calls, reception areas, forms, press releases, social media, website, jobs advertised and signage. Of the sample undertaken, the areas noted above were fully compliant.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES – Annual Report 2020-21

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: Noelwyn Daniel, Head of ICT & Corporate 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 Compliance Notice received from the Welsh Language Commissioner on 30 September 2015 required the Authority to comply with a new set of Standards by 31 March 2016.

2. Legal

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 were 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: Noelwyn Daniel, Head of ICT and Corporate Policy

1. Scrutiny Committee

Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on the 21st July 2021 recommend that the Annual report on the Welsh Language 2020-21 be endorsed.

2. Local Member(s)

N/A.

3. Community / Town Council

N/A

4. Relevant Partners

N/A

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

N/A

CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S)
AWARE/CONSULTED

YES

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 (Wales) Measure 2011		Welsh version http://www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2011/1/pdfs/mwa_2011001_we.pdf English version http://www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2011/1/pdfs/mwa_2011001_en.pdf
Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh Language Standards – Compliance Notice		Welsh version http://www.sirgar.llyw.cymru/media/1885671/20170321-hysbysiad-cydymffurfio44-cyngor-sir-g%C3%A2r-cy-.pdf English version http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1885670/20170321-hysbysiad-cydymffurfio44-cyngor-sir-g%C3%A2r-en-.pdf
Closing the Gap: The Welsh Language Commissioner's Assurance Report 2019-20		Welsh Version http://www.comisiynyddygydraeg.cymru/Cymraeg/Rhestr%20Cyhoeddiadau/20200911%20Adroddiad%20sicrwydd%202019-20.pdf English version http://www.comisiynyddygydraeg.cymru/English/Publications%20List/20200911%20Assurance%20report%202019-20.pdf