

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES CABINET BOARD

13 DECEMBER 2017

**REPORT OF THE HEAD OF CORPORATE STRATEGY AND
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES – K.JONES**

SECTION A - MATTER FOR DECISION

WARDS AFFECTED - ALL

DEVELOPING A LANGUAGE PROMOTION STRATEGY

Purpose of Report

1. To develop a Language Promotion Strategy to meet the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards.

Background

2. The Welsh Language Standards 145 and 146 relate to the development of a Language Promotion Strategy and the setting of targets to maintain or improve the numbers of Welsh speakers in the county borough.
3. The Council challenged these standards on the basis that the responsibility of maintaining or increasing the numbers of Welsh speakers does not lie with the Council alone. After a protracted period of correspondence and discussions with the Welsh Language Commissioner's representatives the Council has been able to accept the standards as being reasonable and proportionate in so far as it relates to its own areas of responsibilities.
4. It is now necessary to develop a Language Promotion Strategy, in accordance with the Standards.

The Development of a Language Promotion Strategy

5. The whole investigation and challenge process, as well as the implementation, of the Welsh Language Standards has had elected Member cross party support.
6. Member involvement throughout the process has ensured a strong and balanced approach and in order to continue in this vein it is proposed to establish a Member Task and Finish Group to develop the Strategy.
7. It is suggested that the membership of the Task and Finish Group comprises of Members of the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee, with advice and assistance provided from relevant officers and external organisations where appropriate.

Financial Impact

8. There are no financial impacts in relation to the development of the Language Promotion Strategy.

Equality Impact Assessment

9. There is no requirement for an Equality Impact Assessment with this report, however, an assessment will be undertaken as part of the development of the Strategy.

Workforce Impacts

10. There are no workforce impacts with this report

Legal Impacts

11. The Welsh Language Standards have been introduced by the Welsh Government by virtue of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

Risk Management

12. If the council does not develop a Language Promotion Strategy there is a risk of non-compliance with standards which could attract complaints from members of the public with a consequential

adverse impact on the Council's reputation and the potential for fines of £5,000 per standard not complied with.

Consultation

13. There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

Recommendations

14. That Members support the establishment of a Task and Finish Group to develop the Language Promotion Strategy.
15. Members determine appropriate representation on the Task and Finish Group.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

16. To ensure the Council meets the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards.

Implementation of Decision

17. The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period

Appendices

18. There are none

Background papers

19. Welsh Language Standards - Compliance Notice

Officer Contact:

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