

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet Scrutiny Committee

1 August 2018

Report of the Chair of Welsh Language Promotion Strategy Task and Finish Group

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

All Wards

To consider the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group on the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy in Neath Port Talbot.

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Cabinet Scrutiny Committee with the final version of the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy produced by the Welsh Language Task and Finish Group.

Executive Summary

2. The report highlights the findings of the Task and Finish Group which comprised of a small group of Members of the former Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee.

3. The report includes information received from key stakeholders, and discussion points considered at meetings of the group.
4. The draft Welsh Language Promotion Strategy and Action Plan was reported to Cabinet to seek approval to go out to Consultation. The Task and Finish Group convened a final meeting to discuss the responses, and amendments have been made to the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy and Action Plan reflecting those responses.

Background

5. Since July 2016, the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee had considered reports on the implementation of the Welsh Language Commissioner's Welsh Language Standards.
6. Standard 145 (Promotion) states that every Local Authority must produce and publish on their website a 5 year Strategy that sets out how they propose to promote the Welsh Language and to facilitate the use of Welsh Language more widely in their area.
7. The Committee resolved in 2017 to appoint a Task and Finish Group to develop a Welsh Language Promotion Strategy for the County Borough.
8. The draft Welsh Language Promotion Strategy and Action Plan was reported to Cabinet on 16 May 2018, to seek approval to consult for a 4 week period.
9. The Task and Finish Group met on 12 July 2018 to discuss the responses received following the consultation. The Welsh Language Promotion Strategy and Action Plan reflect the amendments that have been made as a result of the responses received.

Financial Impact

10. There are no additional financial impacts attached to the Strategy as all actions have been developed within budgetary constraints.

Integrated Impact Assessment

11. An Integrated Impact Assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010,

the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016).

12. An overview of the Integrated Impact Assessment has been included in this report in summary form only and it is essential that Members read the Integrated Impact Assessment, which is attached to the report at Appendix 4, for the purposes of the meeting.
13. Strategy has been developed in accordance with the legislative requirements of the Welsh language Standards (No1) Regulations and reflects the sustainable development principle of the Wellbeing of future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
14. While the anticipated outcome of the Strategy will be positive, some potential negative impacts have been identified during the consultation exercise and mitigating actions have been developed to address these. In addition, it is acknowledged that potential negative impacts are likely if implementation of the Strategy is not fully achieved and/or publicity is not undertaken sensitively.
15. Amendments which aim to address issues/comments raised during the consultation/assessment process have been made to the Strategy and Action Plan as appropriate

Workforce Impacts

16. There are no direct workforce impacts associated with this report.

Legal Impacts

17. There are no legal impacts associated with this report however, the Council has a duty to develop and implement a Welsh Language Promotion Strategy.

Risk Management

18. There are no direct risk management impacts associated with the report however, there may be a financial risk to the Council for failure to comply with the Welsh Language Standards.

Consultation

19. This item has been subject to external consultation for a 4 week period. There have also been consultation events which have taken place in Port Talbot, Neath and Pontardawe. An overview of the consultation is attached at Appendix 3.

Recommendations

20. That the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy and Action Plan produced by the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy Task and Finish Group (attached at Appendix 2) be accepted and commended to Cabinet for approval subject to any amendments made at today's meeting.
21. That subject to Paragraph 20 above, Cabinet be requested to commend the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy and Action Plan to Council for adoption, subject to any amendments made at Cabinet.

Reason for Proposed Decisions

22. To ensure that Neath Port Talbot complies with the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards Regulations 2015.

Implementation of Decisions

23. The decisions are proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

Appendices

24. Appendix One - Report of the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy Task and Finish Group
25. Appendix Two - Welsh Language Promotion Strategy and Action Plan
26. Appendix Three - Consultation Report
27. Appendix Four - Integrated Impact Assessment

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