

POLICY AND RESOURCES CABINET BOARD

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF CORPORATE STRATEGY AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

27th NOVEMBER 2014

SECTION B – MATTER FOR INFORMATION

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

WELSH LANGUAGE STANDARDS AND OTHER MATTERS UPDATE

Purpose of Report

This report is to update Members on the position regarding the Welsh Language Standards and other Welsh language matters.

Background

The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 established the Welsh Language Commissioner as an independent body with the aim to promote and facilitate the Welsh Language.

The Measure also abolished the Welsh Language Board, transferring its functions, including that of monitoring of Welsh Language Schemes, to the Commissioner.

The introduction of Welsh Language Standards was also legislated for under the Measure, with the Commissioner having responsibility for monitoring compliance by identified public bodies.

The Welsh Language Standards

The introduction of Welsh Language Standards was scheduled for November 2014, following debate and a vote in the National Assembly Plenary Session in October/November 2014. However, following the submission of the Welsh Language Commissioner's report on the Standards Investigation, and subsequent advice, the Welsh Government will consult on draft regulations in November 2014. A vote to approve regulations for the Standards will take place during National Assembly Plenary - March 2015.

Response of the Welsh Language Commissioner to the Welsh Language Scheme Annual Monitoring Report 2013-2014.

The Welsh Language Commissioner's response to the annual monitoring report has been received and further information to clarify particular statements has been requested. As in previous years the Response will form the basis of the annual meeting with the Welsh Language Commissioner, the date of which has yet to be confirmed. The Response can be found at Appendix 1.

'A survey of the use of the Welsh language on Twitter'

During January 2014 the Welsh Language Commissioner carried out a survey on the use of social media network Twitter by public bodies. The survey was undertaken to establish a clear picture of the current situation and offer guidance and good practice examples.

The Commissioner concluded that 'Twitter is used to convey short messages and communications to the public. The evidence did not show 'live'; or 'instant' use of the accounts. There are no obvious reasons therefore for not translating such messages and providing them in Welsh and English at the same time.' The survey report can be found at Appendix 2.

This Survey report has been circulated to relevant officers and we await the amended advice document 'Technology, Websites and Software: Considering the Welsh Language' which will include a specific advice on Web2.0 and Social Media.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Response of the Welsh Language Commissioner to the Annual Monitoring Report 2013-2014.

Appendix 2 - A survey of the use made of the Welsh language on Twitter.

List of Background Papers

Welsh Language Standards Investigation - response documents.

Welsh Language Scheme Annual Monitoring Report 2013-2014.

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