



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

28 June 2023

Report of the Head of People and Organisational Development – S Rees

Matter for Monitoring

Wards Affected: All Wards

Report Title: Welsh Language Standards Annual Report 2022-2023

Purpose of the Report

1. To present the Welsh Language Standards Annual Report for 2022-2023, produced in accordance with the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015.

Executive Summary

2. This annual report, produced in accordance with the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, provides an overview of compliance with the standards with which we had a duty to comply during the year.
3. The report also details the number of complaints received during the year which relate to compliance with the service delivery, operational and policy making standards and the Welsh language generally.
4. Specific information as required by the standards in relation to the Welsh language skills of employees and new and vacant posts is also included.

Background:

5. The Welsh language standards with which the council has to comply are contained in a compliance notice, issued by the Welsh Language Commissioner in accordance with the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.
6. The annual report, attached at Appendix 1, provides an overview of compliance with the standards with which we had a duty to comply during 2022-2023.
7. The Council's Welsh Language Officer Group remains key to the promotion of the Welsh language, the implementation of the standards, identification of good practice and monitoring compliance.

Annual Report

8. The outcome of the Welsh Language Commissioner's evidence gathering exercise for 2021-2022 was received and discussions with the Commissioner's officer took place in January 2023.
9. Our compliance was assessed as good in the majority of areas assess, particularly our social media corporate accounts and responses to Welsh emails where our Welsh response rate was better than the English response rate.
10. Although the majority of the feedback received was positive, minor issues were raised in some areas including telephone calls and documents not including the statement 'available in Welsh'.
11. The Welsh Language Officer Group has made significant strides in promoting the Welsh language as well as supporting staff in complying with Standards.

Financial Impacts:

12. Compliance with the standards is delivered within service budgets

Integrated Impact Assessment:

13. There is no requirement to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment as this report is for monitoring/information purposes.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

14. The Annual Report includes progress made in delivering services to support residents in valley communities.

Workforce Impacts:

15. Staff with Welsh language skills continue to be encouraged to use Welsh in their work. In order to help increase the future language capability of staff the Council encourages the uptake of available Welsh courses. We are taking every opportunity to recruit staff with Welsh language skills where appropriate.

Legal Impacts:

16. This report deals with the Council's duty to comply with the final Compliance Notice issued on 25 April 2018.

Risk Management Impacts:

17. Failure to comply with the standards could lead to a £5,000 fine per standard. There is also a risk of damage to the Council's reputation.

Consultation:

18. There is no requirement for external consultation on this item

Recommendations:

19. It is recommended that:

Members monitor Neath Port Talbot Council's Welsh Language Standards Annual Report 2022-2023, attached at Appendix 1, prior to its publication by the statutory deadline of 30 June.

Appendix:

20. Appendix 1 - Welsh Language Standards Annual Report 2022-2023

List of Background Papers:

Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011

Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015

Welsh Language Standards Compliance Notice

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