

SOUTH WEST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

Report of the Chief Executive

Report Title: Welsh Language Commissioner – Welsh Language Standards Compliance

Purpose of Report	To inform Members of contact with the Welsh Language Commissioner's Office with regards to the application of Welsh Language Standards and the issuing of a compliance notice.
Recommendation	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. It is recommended that Members note that statutory consultation on a proposed compliance notice commenced on 4th October 2023 and will end 5th January 2024.2. It is recommended that Members note that a response to the consultation will be prepared by the Chief Executive for the Committee's consideration within the consultation period.
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Background:

1. In respect of the Welsh language, the guidance set by Welsh Government confirms that CJs are required to comply with the same Welsh Language Standards duties as local authorities - The Welsh Language Standards (No. 1) Regulations 2015 ("the No. 1 Regulations"). The No. 1 Regulations also authorise the Welsh Language Commissioner to issue compliance notices, which set out the duties that each individual body must comply with.
2. We ask Members note that contact has been made with the Welsh Language Commissioner's Office, regarding the issue of a Compliance

Notice. We advised that the Committee has formally adopted Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh Language Standards on a voluntary basis and hope that this will reduce the amount of work that would otherwise be required as we enter into the formal compliance process.

3. The Welsh Language Commissioner formally wrote to the Chief Executive of the CJC on 4th October 2023, initiating the statutory consultation on standards that the Commissioner proposes to apply to the CJC. The correspondence received is set out at Appendix 1. The consultation runs until 5th January 2024.
4. The Chief Executive will review the proposed compliance notice with the standards already voluntarily adopted by the Committee and will formulate a proposed response to the consultation for the Committee to consider at a future meeting.

Financial Impacts:

5. It is considered that the cost of meeting the Welsh Language Standards can be met within the existing budget set for the CJC where provision for translation costs is already made.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

6. The CJC is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
 - Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
 - Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
 - Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
 - Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

7. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'. Members will note that in respect of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 one of the seven Well-being Goals is "*A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language*".

Workforce Impacts:

8. There are minimal workforce impacts for the CJC to be concerned with in relation to this report.

Legal Impacts:

9. The compliance notice ensures the CJC discharges its duties imposed under Regulations set by the Welsh Language Commissioner.

Risk Management Impacts:

10. Any risks associated with the proposed compliance notice will be highlighted to the Committee in the proposed response to the consultation.

Consultation:

11. There is no requirement for external consultation on this report.

Appendices:

12. Appendix 1 – Letter from Welsh Language Commissioner, dated 4th October 2023

List of Background Papers:

13. [Welsh Government Statutory Guidance on CJs](#)
14. Welsh Language Standards, Interim Policy Position, CJC, 11th October 2022

