

POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

**CABINET EXECUTIVE
20 June 2023**

REPORT AUTHOR: Councillor Sandra Davies
Cabinet Member for Future Generations

REPORT TITLE: Draft Welsh Language Standards Annual Report 2022-2023

REPORT FOR: Decision

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Draft Welsh Language Standards Annual Report for consideration and approval (see Appendix A). The Report outlines work undertaken during 2022-23 to ensure compliance with the Welsh Language Standards under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, and performance against the requirements of the Standards.

2. Background

- 2.1 Under the Welsh Language Standards the Council is required to publish an annual report, outlining the work undertaken to comply with the requirements of the Standards during the previous financial year.
- 2.2 The Draft Welsh Language Standards Annual Report (attached as Appendix A) includes work undertaken to comply with the following Standards:
- Service Delivery Standards. These state how the Council must deliver services to the public, e.g. by telephone, in meetings, through correspondence, in documents and through digital platforms
 - Policy Making Standards. These state how the Council must consider the impact of its decisions and services on the Welsh language
 - Operational Standards. The information, support and procedures the Council must provide to its workforce to enable them to do more of their work through the medium of Welsh
 - Promotion Standards. These state how the Council intends to promote and increase opportunities to use the Welsh language in Powys.

- 2.3 The report sets out work to be undertaken during 2023-24 to further improve how the Council provides services to its Welsh speaking residents, visitors and workforce. It notes how the Council considers impacts on opportunities to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English through its decision-making processes. This includes how the Council could amend proposals to ensure a more positive or less negative impact of policies. The report also notes how the Council promotes the Welsh language and culture through its work.
- 2.4 Sections 4, 5, 6, and 7 include data the Council must record under the Record Keeping Standards of the Welsh Language Measure. These include:
- Section 4. Complaints received by the Council regarding its compliance with the Welsh Language Standards, along with Welsh Language Standards Investigations conducted by the Welsh Language Commissioner during the 2022-23 financial year
 - Section 5. Data on the Welsh language skills of Council employees
 - Section 6. The number of staff undertaking training courses provided by the Council through the medium of Welsh
 - Section 7. The language skills requirements of new posts and vacancies advertised by the Council during the year.

3. Advice

- 3.1 To approve the Draft Welsh Language Standards Annual Report 2023 to be published on the Council's public website. This provides a review of work the Council did to ensure compliance with the Welsh Language Standards during the 2022-23 financial year, and to meet its statutory obligations under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

4. Resource Implications

The 2023-2024 work plan as shown in Section 3 of the draft Annual Report is within existing budget. However, any recommendations following the reviews noted in the work plan may require additional budget. For example, we may need new technology or resources to strengthen services and improve compliance. Additional budget will need to be identified and approved before further action can be taken in line with the Council's virement process.

- 4.1 The Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer) notes the content of the report and can support the recommendation.

5. Legal implications

5.1 Legal: the recommendations can be accepted from a legal point of view

5.2 The Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) has commented as follows: "I note the legal comment and have nothing to add to the report".

6. Data Protection

6.1 N/A

7. Comment from local member(s)

7.1 N/A

8. Integrated Impact Assessment

8.1 An Impact Assessment is not required as the Welsh Language Standards Annual Report is a review of work undertaken during 2022-2023 and of information held by the Council regarding its compliance with the Standards.

9. Recommendation

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
To approve the Draft Welsh Language Standards Annual Report 2023 (attached as Appendix A) for it to be published on the Council's public website by 30 June 2023.	<p>To provide a review of work undertaken during the 2022-23 financial year to ensure compliance with the Welsh Language Standards.</p> <p>To ensure the Council meets its statutory obligations as outlined in the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.</p>

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