



Report of the Cabinet Members for Education and Learning and Culture and Equalities

Service Improvement and Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel 9 May – 2023

Welsh Language Standards Annual Report 2021/22

Purpose	To present the Welsh Language Standards Annual report 2021/22.
Content	The report provides a summary of an overview of the activities relating to Welsh Standards within the financial year ending 31 st March 2022; including new projects and activities during the year to meet said Standards.
Councillors are being asked to	Consider the information provided and give views
Lead Councillor	Councillors Robert Smith and Elliott King, Cabinet Members for Education and Learning and Culture and Equalities
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Legal Officer Finance Officer	Tracey Meredith Ben Smith

1. Background

- 1.1 Since 30th March 2016 all local authorities in Wales have had a statutory duty to comply with the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure (2011) and with the Welsh Language Standards imposed by the Measure through sub-legislation (Welsh Language Regulation Standards), commonly referred to as the 'Standards'.
- 1.2 Swansea Council is required to comply with 163 standards across 5 categories, which is run corporately through the Standards Officer via the Heads of Service.

2. Briefing/Main Body of Report

- 2.1 The Council has continued to be make improvements on implementing the Welsh Language Standards during the year despite the pandemic, with the priority being on Service Delivery Standards as they are greatest in number and are the most visible to the public. During 2021-22 all reports through Cabinet/Council were screened and assessed for impact on the Welsh Language through the EIA process.
- 2.2 Service delivery Standards have been maintained and there was a significant increase in Welsh language calls due to TTP and Swansea Council managing the pan-Wales, Welsh Vaccine Certification Service (WVCS) telephone service.
- 2.3 Work continues to develop a new system for the public to complain to the Council, including around compliance with the Welsh Language Standards.
- 2.4 The Welsh Language Standards has strengthened the provision of bilingual services in Health and Social Care, and across the Council as a whole.
- 2.5 As part of the 'More than Just Words' active offer the Council has extended the offer to social care staff to learn Welsh through work.
- 2.6 There have been over 2,156,156 total page views on Staffnet in 2021-2022; 19,003 of these were related to Welsh.
- 2.7 The Microsoft Teams virtual 'Cwtsh- Ysgrifennu yn Cymraeg' was available throughout the year for Officers to use virtually.
- 2.8 Six Welsh Language complaints were received directly to the Council during the reporting period April 2021 – March 2022.

3. Conclusions/Key Points Summary

- 3.1 Welsh Language Standards and the promotion of the Welsh language continues to be a priority for Swansea Council.
- 3.2 The e-democracy project was completed- improving participation in public meetings.
- 3.3 The new Standards Officer is now in post.
- 3.4 Impact on the Welsh Language is now fully embedded in the Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA).

4. Legal implications

- 4.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

5. Finance Implications

- 5.1 We have recently appointed Atebol (February, 2023) to assist with the Welsh Translation Unit, but there are no financial implications arising from this particular report period.

Glossary of terms: Not applicable

Background papers: None

Appendices: Appendix A – Swansea Council Welsh Language Annual Report 2021/22