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| Report to | Welsh Language Steering Committee |
| Date of meeting | 08 November, 2022 |
| Lead Member / Officer | Nicola Stubbins / Councillor Emrys Wynne |
| Report author | Manon Celyn Roberts – Welsh Language Officer |
| Title | Welsh Language Standards - Standard 98 |

1. What is the report about?

The report is about the Welsh Language Standards - **specifically standard 98**.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

It's our duty as a Council, as we're fully committed to complying with the Welsh language Standards, to have a Policy on Implementing the Welsh language internally (Standards 98). We currently don't have one therefore we're in breach of the Standards.

3. What are the Recommendations?

To give and update on the actions taken to produce a Policy on Implementing the Welsh language internally (see attachment).

4. Report details

The Welsh Language Standards were introduced in Denbighshire in 2015, as part of a roll out to public sector organisations in Wales. The Standards were created in direct response to the creation of the Welsh Language Measure (2011) and the role of the Welsh Language Commissioner.

The Standards have been introduced to ensure that the Welsh Language is treated as fairly as the English Language. Denbighshire needs to comply with 167 Standards which

have been broken down into five key areas: Service Delivery; Policy Making; Operational. Record Keeping and Promotional.

The duty for implementing these Standards are for every member of the organisation. A clear mandate has been issued by the Council to comply with the Welsh Language Standards and the aim is to provide the best service possible to the public in the language of their choice. As would be expected, the Council has been implementing these standards for a number of years. Whilst many of the standards were not new to the organisation, we needed to ensure that there was a positive response to their implementation across the county and that customers see an enhanced service through the medium of Welsh.

The Council seems to be complying with the majority of the Standards across the Board. The work of monitoring the compliance rests with the Corporate Communications team, who have corporate responsibilities for the Welsh Language. They are supported by a team of Welsh Language Champions who act voluntarily to promote the corporate approach. The compliance is also subject to random testing by other organisations, including the Welsh Language Commissioner's office.

Even though it seems that we're complying with the majority of the Standards, the Welsh Language Commissioner regularly carries out spot checks on all public services and recent research shows we don't have a Policy on Implementing the Welsh language internally. Therefore it's our duty to produce the policy as part of our efforts to comply with the standards.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

The decision contributes to the development of the Welsh Language by building a culture and ethos that encourages the daily use of Welsh by elected members and council staff, providing training and social opportunities to improve their confidence in using the language.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

There is no budget in place for the Welsh Language. Any costs are expected to be absorbed into existing budgets.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

Whilst no formal Well-being Impact Assessment is needed for this report, it is worth noting some of the key benefits in relation to the Well-Being and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language Standards.

One of the key components of the well-being and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is having: “A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language: A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation”.

The Council also has a role, through its Welsh Language Standards, to promote opportunities for local communities to get involved in Welsh Language activities.

8. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

The main risk of any non-compliance could be a complaint being submitted to the Welsh Language Commissioner’s office, as well as damage to the Council’s reputation.

The risk of not complying with a direct request from the Welsh Commissioner to produce a policy on the awarding of grants.