

COMMITTEE	LANGUAGE COMMITTEE
DATE	29 January 2015
TITLE OF THE REPORT	Support for Businesses
RECOMMENDATION	For information
AUTHOR	Equality and Language Policy Officer

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Language Committee has asked for a report of what the Council does and what it could do to promote local businesses to make the best use of the Welsh language.
- 1.2 In order to give a comprehensive picture, it was also decided to invite the relevant officer from the Office of the Commissioner, to give an outline of the role of the Commissioner in the process of promoting the Welsh language amongst businesses.

2. THE ROLE OF THE COUNCIL

- 2.1 The Council manages and administrates several funding and grant schemes for businesses, and this is the main method of influencing this field. There are specific terms and conditions in relation to the Welsh language with every offer. The aim is to work with businesses to fulfil the requirement; however, there is a clause in the Language Scheme which allows the Council eventually to suspend funding on grounds of non-compliance with language conditions.
- 2.2 It should be noted that we are not able to impose language conditions on anything we do not fund. For example, if a company receives funding for information technology equipment, we cannot insist upon having bilingual signage. However, under such circumstances, we take advantage of the opportunity to promote the language and to draw attention to the business case for using the Welsh language. With this in mind, the leaflet *Promote the Language, Promote your Work* was produced.
- 2.3 In relation to future grant packages, it is intended to continue with the existing language conditions and to review and update the *Promote the Language* leaflet if resources are available.

3. THE ROLE OF THE COMMISSIONER

- 3.1 Within the structure of the Welsh Language Commissioner, there is a specific function for the business sector and the third sector, with an Officer serving the areas of Gwynedd, Môn, Conwy and North Ceredigion.
- 3.2 No specific funding is available for businesses through the Commissioner; however, a free service is offered to proofread and amend bilingual text of up to 1,000 words. This service is available to businesses and the third sector.
- 3.3 It is also likely that, under the Language Standards, statutory requirements will be placed on businesses which receive over £400,000 in public funding.