

MEETING:	LANGUAGE COMMITTEE
DATE:	23 APRIL, 2015
TITLE:	COMPLAINT ABOUT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GWYNEDD COMMUNITY HOMES' LANGUAGE PLAN
AUTHOR:	SENIOR MANAGER – DEMOCRACY AND DELIVERY
PURPOSE OF REPORT:	TO PRESENT AN UPDATE TO THE COMMITTEE.

1. At its last meeting, this Committee had a discussion on concerns about recent action by Gwynedd Community Homes advertising two senior management posts without any requirement to speak Welsh.
2. Following the Committee's decisions, there was correspondence with Gwynedd Community Homes and the Office of the Welsh Language Commissioner. The purpose of this report is to report back on that.
3. With regard to Gwynedd Community Homes (CCG), they moved ahead with the appointments. By now, I understand that both posts have been filled. We have asked CCG whether they are willing to receive a deputation from the Council but, so far, no date for such a meeting has been set.
4. With regard to the Welsh Language Commissioner, although CCG, as a housing association is not subject to the 1993 Welsh Language Act, the Commissioner has been in touch with CCG on the issue.
5. In recent correspondence, the Commissioner's Office have stated that they plan to publish a report "on the recent dealings between the Commissioner and CCG that will primarily be a factual report (but the document will also include an explanation of the extent of the Commissioner's powers in the case.)" The report will be published on the Commissioner's web-site but, at the time of writing this report, the report has not yet been published.
6. In the meantime, I have raised a more general matter with the Commissioner's Office, the fact that the Council, because of the financial challenge it faces, will have to look at different models of service provision and commissioning within the county. We have invited the Commissioner's Office to an early discussion about the sorts of models that the Council might consider and whether there are some 'forms of outsourcing and delegating services' that would be safer in terms of conformity with the Council's language standards.
7. Subject to the views of the Committee, I would propose to move ahead to hold those discussions over the coming weeks reporting back to the Committee on that.