

MEETING:	LANGUAGE COMMITTEE
DATE:	4 JULY 2017
TITLE:	Gwynedd Council Annual Report on the implementation of Welsh Language Standards
AUTHOR:	MAIR ROWLANDS DEPUTY LEADER
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT	Present the Annual Report to the Members

1 BACKGROUND

1.1 The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 was passed by the National Assembly for Wales and was given royal assent in February 2011. The Measure made a number of significant changes regarding the accountability and responsibilities of public organisations in Wales. The Measure:

- gives the Welsh Language official status in Wales which means that Welsh should be treated no less favourably than the English language in Wales
- establishes the role of the Welsh Language Commissioner to promote the Welsh language, and improving the opportunities people have to use it.
- creates a procedure for introducing duties in the form of language standards that explain how organisations are expected to use the Welsh language.
- establishes the Welsh Language tribunal to listen to cases on the Commissioner's decisions regarding the Welsh Language standards..
- abolishes the Welsh Language Board

1.2 In accordance with the procedure imposed by Section 44 of The Welsh language (Wales) Measure 2011, a Compliance Notice was received, which included all of the standards Gwynedd Council are expected to comply with by 30 September 2015.

1.3 There were 151 standards in the Compliance Notice, all of which were categorised into five areas:

1. Service Delivery
2. Policy Making
3. Operational
4. Record Keeping
5. Promotion

1.4 All of the Standards came into force on 30 March 2016, except for the 4 standards relating to promotion, which were operational from 30 March 2017.

- 1.5 Following the Council's historical commitment to the Welsh Language, the Council was already conforming to a significant number of standards imposed upon it through the implementation of its Language Plan, indeed, this Plan went further than the Welsh Language Standards in many areas.
- 1.6 It was deemed that the Council should not weaken its current commitment to the Welsh language by solely conforming to the Welsh Language Standards, therefore a new Language Policy was developed. This Policy has been operational since April 2016.
- 1.7 As part of the Standards, the Council must create and publish an annual report by 30 June following the financial year to which the report relates. Therefore attached is Gwynedd Council's Annual Report on the implementation of Welsh Language Standards for the period 2015/16.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Members are asked to:

- Discuss and accept the content of the Annual Report