

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>LANGUAGE COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>22 June 2021</b>
<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Gwynedd Council Annual Report on the implementation of Welsh Language Standards</b>
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<b>PURPOSE OF THE REPORT</b>	<b>Present the Annual Report to be approved by the Members</b>

## **1 BACKGROUND**

1.1 As part of the Welsh Language Standards, as set by Section 44 of the Welsh Language Measure (Wales) 2011 the Council must “produce a report (an "annual report"), in Welsh, in relation to each financial year, which deals with the way in which you have complied with the service delivery standards with which you were under a duty to comply during that year”.

1.2 The Standards that relate specifically to the annual report (158, 164 and 170) ask us to include the following information:

- *the number of complaints that you received during that year which related to your compliance with the standards*
- *the number of employees who have Welsh language skills at the end of the year in question (on the basis of the records you kept in accordance with standard 151);*
- *the number of members of staff who attended training courses you offered in Welsh during the year (on the basis of the records you kept in accordance with standard 152);*
- *if a Welsh version of a course was offered by you during that year, the percentage of the total number of staff attending the course who attended the Welsh version (on the basis of the records you kept in accordance with standard 152);*
- *the number of new and vacant posts that you advertised during the year which were categorised as posts where –*
  - (i) Welsh language skills were essential,*
  - (ii) Welsh language skills needed to be learnt when appointed to the post,*
  - (iii) Welsh language skills were desirable, or*
  - (iv) Welsh language skills were not necessary, (on the basis of the records you kept in accordance with standard 154);*

1.3 Beyond this information, the Council is free to include any information that we deem relevant to improve understanding of the specific steps taken to comply with the Standards. .

1.4 The attached report is therefore the Annual Report for the year up to March 2021, and includes the specific information asked for under Standards 158, 164 and 170, as well as some further information.

1.5 As it has been an unusual year in terms of service provision and the working habits of staff, we will also offer a general overview of the last year, and the specific challenges faced in relation to providing Welsh language service as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic.

## **2. SUMMARY OF THE REPORT**

We will be including a short summary in the final report, which will offer a quick look at the highlights of the report:

- 400 committees and online meetings supported by the translation team to ensure and facilitate simultaneous translation
- 2 new services created (Covid Support Team and the Track, Trace and Safety Service) that delivered services completely bilingual
- 90% of the staff of the new Track and Trace service are Welsh speakers
- 99.7% of Council staff have some degree of Welsh language skills
- 92% of staff reach the language specification of their job (according to the assessments completed so far)
- There are more jobs in the Council with the highest language requirement (proficiency level) than any other level
- 441 jobs were advertised over the year where language skills were essential

## **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 Members are asked to:

- accept the content of the Annual Report presented for their information, and
- offer any observations on the matters contained within the report and any other matters that should be contained in the final report.