



**PONTYPOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**WELSH LANGUAGE TASK AND FINISH GROUP**  
**SEPTEMBER 2023**  
**WELSH LANGUAGE SCHEME**  
**AND ACTION PLAN**

Developing a Welsh language scheme for community councils in Wales is an important step in promoting and preserving the Welsh language. The scheme is designed to ensure that public services are available and accessible to Welsh speakers. It is important for each Community Council to tailor their Welsh language scheme to the unique linguistic and cultural context of their area, while also aligning with national policies and guidelines for language promotion in Wales.

**ACTION PLAN**

<b>1</b>	<b><u>PURPOSE OF THE REPORT</u></b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide the Welsh Language Task and Finish Group with an overview of the Council's performance against the Welsh Language Action Plan, to the Welsh Language Scheme (App 1).
<b>2</b>	<b><u>RECOMMENDATIONS</u></b>
2.1	Note the content of the report;
2.2	Consider whether further information is required;
2.3	Approve the continued implementation of the current Action Plan.
2.4	Approve an assessment to evaluate the extent to which the objectives have been achieved through implementation.

<b>3</b>	<b><u>REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS</u></b>	
3.1	The Council is required to produce a Three-Year Strategy to facilitate and promote the Welsh Language in the county under Standard 145 of the Compliance Notice issued under section 44 of the Welsh Language Wales Measure 2011. The first Welsh Language Scheme was approved in 2008 and was published, as required, on the Council's website.	
3.2	As part of the Three-Year Strategy the Council must focus on:	
	3.2.1	Reviewing the strategy and publishing a revised version on its website with a three-year publishing strategy: 6 months initially and then annually.
	3.2.2	Encouraging more Welsh speakers to participate in the language of their choice.
	3.2.3	Assessing the extent to which the Council has implemented the strategy.
	3.2.4	Promoting and enhancing the natural use of the Welsh Language
<b>4</b>	<b><u>BACKGROUND</u></b>	
4.1	<p>Part 3 outlines the activities and targets that the Council is responsible for achieving either through direct delivery or through the commissioning of services from link organisations as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ysgol Panteg</li> <li>• Ysgol Gymraeg Gwynllyw</li> <li>• Ysgol Bryn Onnen</li> <li>• Ysgol Feithrin a Mudiad Meithrin Pontypwl – Helen Greenwood</li> <li>• Menter Iaith BGTM – Sioned Davies</li> <li>• Comisiynydd y Gymraeg/Welsh Language Commissioner</li> <li>• TCBC Welsh Language Officer – Alun Vernon Jones</li> <li>• Use of Welsh in the Community Council</li> </ul>	
4.2	An effective Action Plan that will ensure the successful implementation of the strategy was reinforced through the Good Councillors Guide.	
4.3	All activities are targeted and allocated across the community.	
<b>5</b>	<b><u>CURRENT POSITION AND PROGRESS</u></b>	

5.1	Schemes that foster an environment where use of the Welsh Language is encouraged are evidenced across all Council offices e.g. are all e-mail signatures bilingual, etc.
5.2	We are publicising that we are proud to be a Welsh nation.
5.3	Awareness about the Welsh language and its contribution to the history and culture of Wales is being promoted (bi-lingual leaflets and posters).
5.4	We have offered staff training opportunities. Our Learn Welsh campaign includes a fully integrated list of Council and Community-based courses that is promoted to all staff. This ensures that staff have access to as many options for learning Welsh as possible.
5.5	The Council's nominated Welsh Champion can signpost staff to further relevant opportunities.
5.6	Our Welsh Language Policy will be available should members of the public or staff require it.
5.7	Being able to use the Welsh language is now included as a desirable skill in our recruitment process. This demonstrates to future staff that the Welsh language matters to the Community Council.
<b>6</b>	<b><u>EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS</u></b>
6.1	An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required for the purposes of this report.
<b>7</b>	<b><u>CONSULTATION</u></b>
7.1	A consultation process was undertaken before the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy and Action Plan was approved in 2017.
<b>8</b>	<b><u>FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)</u></b>
8.1	There are no financial implications associated with this report. However, there will be costs and required resources with respect to implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan. There is already a budget line of £500 available for Welsh Translation.
<b>9</b>	<b><u>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED</u></b>  Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and Welsh Language Statutory Standards 2015 regulate this area of work.
<b>10</b>	<b><u>LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT</u></b>

10.1	Action Plan and underpins all priorities as the Council is required to comply with by the Welsh Language Commissioner in September 2016.
10.2	The Welsh Language is directly related to Goal 6 of the Well-being of Future Generations Act – a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. It also contributes to the creation of a more equal Wales by providing opportunities for Welsh speakers to access Council services in the medium of Welsh if they so wish.
<b>11</b>	<b><u>CONCLUSION</u></b>
11.1	Good progress has been made against key areas of the Welsh Language Action Plan as highlighted in section 5 above. However, some targets have been found to be challenging, and work has been hampered in some areas due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the implementation of local and national lockdowns during 2020-2021.