

SUBJECT: PUBLISHING A POLICY FOR AWARDING GRANTS

MEETING: INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER DECISION

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR Lisa Dymock

DATE: 22nd December 2021

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

1. PURPOSE:

To present a recommendation from the Welsh Language Commissioner to ensure a policy is put in place relating to the awarding of grants as required by Welsh Language Standard 94.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To approve a policy related to the awarding of grants in response to a recommendation made by the Welsh Language Commissioner.
- 2.2 Approval will ensure that the Council is compliant with Welsh Language Standard 94.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 The Welsh Language Standards were created in 2011 and introduced the concept of the Welsh Language Standards. These Standards were tailored to individual local authorities and were allocated in September of 2016 for implementation. They are a very detailed list of requirements that set out how Monmouthshire must use the Welsh language in both the workplace and in its dealings with the public.
- 3.2 The Welsh Language Commissioner regularly monitors user experience by reviewing all 22 local authorities in Wales to test the effectiveness of their Welsh language offer. This process takes the guise of a mystery shopper exercise and is carried out by an external organisation on behalf of the Commissioner. The surveys are very detailed and can involve the following: monitoring written and e-mail correspondence, Facebook and Twitter posts, press releases, vacancies, telephone calls, visits to receptions and sample surveys of pages on the councils website. These interactions are all designed to measure the effectiveness of our provision through the medium of Welsh.
- 3.3 This particular review highlighted that we did not have a policy in place with regard to the awarding of grants as required by Welsh Language Standard 94. This report presents an appropriate policy for approval.

4. EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING)

An Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed and will accompany this report and the new policy for agreement by the cabinet member.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Option	Benefits	Risks
Don't approve the report recommendation	None	The major risk is that we will be non compliant with Welsh Language Standard 94 and will be liable to a formal investigation by the Welsh Language Commissioner
Approve the report recommendation	We will be compliant with Welsh Language Standard 94 and grants will consider the Welsh Language when being allocated	

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The policy will be available on the Intranet and also sent to all officers that are involved in allocating grants for them to ensure that the policy is followed and that we are compliant with Standard 94. Progress will then be monitored on a regular basis to ensure that we are compliant as per the detail contained in the policy.

7. REASON

8. [Sir Fynwy a'r Iaith Gymraeg - Monmouthshire](#)

To ensure compliance with Welsh Language Standard 94 and ensure that those who wish to use the Welsh language in their interactions with the authority are treated no less favourably than those using English.

9. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

There are no specific resource implications resulting from these recommendations

10. CONSULTEES:

Senior Leadership Team
Cabinet

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None

12. AUTHOR:

Alan Burkitt, Equality and Welsh Language Policy Officer

13. CONTACT DETAILS:

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