

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>LANGUAGE COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>28 June 2011</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT</b>	<b>Consultation: Standards and the Welsh Language: What are your Views?</b>
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>Decide how best to respond to the consultation</b>
<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>Language and Equality Officer</b>

## **1. BACKGROUND**

The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 sets a legal framework to introduce duties on organisations to comply with statutory Standards relating to the Welsh language: In time, these Standards will replace the current requirements to produce and act in accordance with Welsh Language Schemes.

In her Introduction to this document which presents the Standards in draft form, the Welsh Language Commissioner states that these new requirements can appear challenging to some, but that this is imperative if progress is to be made in promoting and facilitating the use of the Welsh language.

The purpose of the proposed Standards is to note the expectations in relation to how we treat and use the Welsh language. They will also highlight what services people can expect to be delivered through the medium of Welsh, setting out clear and consistent expectations.

These Standards will be statutory and will protect the official status of the Welsh language within Wales.

## **2. THE CONSULTATION**

The consultation under consideration is non-statutory: The Measure does not require such a consultation on the draft standards prior to submitting them to the Welsh Ministers. However, given the importance of what is under consideration, the Commissioner is very anxious that everyone be given an opportunity to respond. This is particularly relevant in the case of public authorities, who already work in accordance with Welsh Language Schemes and who have practical experience of delivering services to the public through the medium of Welsh.

The consultation period will run until 11 August 2012.

## **3. THE COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO**

Consider how they would wish to respond to the consultation and how best to co-ordinate their response.