

<b>MEETING</b>	<b>LANGUAGE COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>16 APRIL 2013</b>
<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE</b>
<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>DILYS PHILLIPS, MONITORING OFFICER.</b>

1. When the Language Committee was established last year the Council adopted terms of reference for it as shown in the Appendix. Since then experience has shown that there is room to review and strengthen the terms of reference. There will be an opportunity to amend them in the Annual Council meeting.
2. Under the Cabinet procedure the responsibility for language matters, other than the Council's Welsh Language Plan belongs to the Customer Care Cabinet Member. The function of adopting the language plan is one for the full Council, which has delegated the work of preparing and monitoring it to the Committee.
3. The present language plan comes to an end this year and a new plan will have to be considered to bridge the period until the new language standards come into force. This is a matter for the Committee to make recommendations on to the full Council.
4. Following the results of the census it will also be necessary to look at the strategic direction for the Welsh language within the county. The work of creating a strategy and promoting the language belongs to the Cabinet Member. There is the opportunity here to use the committee as a consultative body for this strategic work. If so, it will be necessary to add this to the terms of reference.
5. Monitoring of the language plan is already within the Committee's terms of reference but perhaps there is a need for clarification on which complaints are within the plan and are therefore dealt with by the Committee and which ones are outside its powers to deal with.
6. The purpose of the language plan is to ensure that the Council's services to the public are provided in Welsh and English equally. This means that complaints appertaining to provision by the Council itself or to services provided on behalf of the Council by a third party come within the Committee's terms of reference. Equally complaints about provision by a partnership that the Council is part of or about bodies that have breached a language condition attached to a grant or sponsorship are within the Committee's terms of reference.

- 7 Other complaints about bodies where there are no provision of services for the Council, are outside the committee's powers to do anything regarding them.
8. As part of the monitoring work, perhaps the Committee would like to take a proactive role to look at some of the Council's main policies and procedures by conducting a language impact assessment. The assessment can be used to check any decisions made by the Cabinet with a report back to the Committee on the findings occasionally.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS.**

9. It is recommended that the Committee
  - 9.1 Considers its work programme for the coming year in light of its powers and terms of reference.
  - 9.2 Recommends to the Full Council on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May that the following clause be added to the Committee's terms of reference :

"Act as a consultative body on strategies to promote the Welsh language within the county and to make recommendations to the Cabinet as required."