

COMMITTEE	LANGUAGE COMMITTEE
DATE	18 June 2015
TITLE OF REPORT	Consultation on the Language Standards – Compliance Notices
RECOMMENDATION	The members are asked to: - discuss and agree on the method of ensuring the contribution of the Language Committee itself into the consultation on the Language Standards – Compliance Notices.
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1. BACKGROUND

1.1 On 9 June 2015, the Council received correspondence from the Welsh Language Commissioner confirming the timetable for starting the consultation process with organisations on the draft compliance notices, in accordance with Section 47 of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

1.2 The consultation period on the compliance notices begins on 22 June 2015, and further documentation will be sent to the Council on this date outlining what is expected as part of the consultation.

1.3 The Council's Constitution states that the responsibility of the Language Committee is:

“To set strategic direction and compliance in response to the Language Standards set by the Welsh Language Commissioner, paying attention to the Council's work and any partnership work or joint working.”

As a result, it is essential to ensure the contribution of the Language Committee to the consultation on the Language Standards – Compliance Notices.

2. TIMETABLE OF THE WELSH LANGUAGE STANDARDS – COMPLIANCE NOTICES

2.1. In the correspondence received by the Welsh Language Commissioner, the following timetable was confirmed in relation to the Welsh Language Standards – Compliance Notices:

22 June 2015

Consultation period on the compliance notices begins

20 July 2015

The consultation period comes to an end. The Welsh Language Commissioner will analyse the responses and construct final compliance notices for each organisation.

September 2015

The Welsh Language Commissioner will impose the final compliance notices on the 26 organisations (under Section 44 of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011).

3. NEXT STEPS

3.1 Considering the above timetable, as well as the fact that no further documentation will be sent to the Council outlining what is expected as part of the consultation until 22 June 2015; it is therefore premature to hold any meaningful discussions on the proposed consultation in this Language Committee.

3.2 During the consultation period, therefore, from the officers' perspective it is considered essential to ensure the contribution of the Corporate Management Team and the Management Group; as they will be responsible for considering any implications of implementing the Language Standards.

3.3 The Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Welsh Language will send the comments in response to the consultation to the Welsh Language Commissioner on behalf of the Council. In order to assist him – and considering the specific responsibility of the Language Committee as stated in the Constitution – a procedure is required to ensure the contribution of the Language Committee to the consultation process.

3.4 No meeting of the Language Committee has been programmed during the consultation period stated by the Welsh Language Commissioner. As a result, there are 2 possible options to ensure the contribution of the committee members to the consultation:

- i) hold an additional meeting of the Language Committee before 20 July 2015
- ii) convene a sub-group from the Language Committee before 20 July 2015.

3.3 All the comments received through the above forums will be collected to form the Councils' final response to the consultation, and that response will be sent to the Welsh language Commissioner in the name of the Cabinet Members with responsibility for the Welsh language.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1. The members are asked to:

- discuss and agree on the method of ensuring the contribution of the Language Committee itself into the consultation on the Language Standards -

Compliance Notices.