
NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

21 June, 2024

TITLE: Welsh Language Standards: Draft Compliance Notice

AUTHOR: Alwen Williams, Interim Chief Executive Officer, North Wales Corporate Joint Committee

1. DECISION SOUGHT

- 1.1. To advise the Chief Executive of any matters which the CJC would wish to be included in the consultation response and to authorise the Chief Executive to respond to the consultation in consultation with the Chairman, including the matters highlighted.

2. REASON FOR THE DECISION

- 2.1. The Welsh Language Commissioner has issued the North Wales CJC with its notice of consultation on the draft compliance notice under Section 47 of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 (**Appendix 1**). The draft compliance notice and standards are included in **Appendix 2**. Corporate Joint Committees (CJC) are public bodies established by Regulations made under Part 5 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021. They are liable to comply with applicable and relevant Welsh Language Standards in the areas of service delivery, policy making, operations, promotion and record keeping. The consultation provides an opportunity to respond to the proposed Standards before the formal compliance notice is issued.
- 2.2. The draft compliance notice was issued 25 March, 2024 with a 12-week consultation period ending 21 June, 2024. An extension to the consultation period end date has been agreed with the Commissioner to allow until 26 July. A copy of the Section 47 consultation response form is included for information in **Appendix 3**.

3. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1. Following the introduction of the [Corporate Joint Committees \(Amendment of Schedule 6 to the Welsh Language \(Wales\) Measure 2011\) Regulations 2021](#) and amendments to [Welsh Language Standards \(No. 1\) Regulations 2015](#) the Welsh Language Commissioner can place standards on the Corporate Joint Committee (CJC).
- 3.2. The Commissioner has started the statutory consultation process under section 47 of the Welsh Language Measure which gives the CJC time to provide evidence to the Welsh Language Commissioner if the CJC has the opinion that one or more of the standards included within the draft compliance notice is unreasonable and/or disproportionate.
- 3.3. In my view there are no specific issues with the proposed standards which I need to highlight.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Costs associated with the Welsh Language Standards will relate to officer time in ensuring that the Corporate Joint Committees standards, once a final compliance notice has been set, are met.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 As noted in paragraph 2.1, compliance with the Welsh Language standards is a legal requirement of the CJC as a public body. The consultation process gives an opportunity for the CJC to respond to the proposed standards.

APPENDICES:

- Appendix 1:** Welsh Language Standards – consultation on compliance notice under Section 47 Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011
- Appendix 2:** Draft Compliance Notice – Section 47 Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011
- Appendix 3:** Section 47 consultation response form
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STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. **Monitoring Officer:**

“The report sets out the requirements involved in the statutory process of setting of a Language Standard for the CJC. Through this consultation it is possible to comment before the compliance notice is formally issued. While such notice can be appealed the consultation provides an opportunity for any prior representations to be made for consideration if there is a wish to do so.”

ii. **Statutory Finance Officer:**

“I am satisfied that implementing the decision sought will not create an additional spending commitment.”