

LAMPETER TOWN COUNCIL'S WELSH LANGUAGE SCHEME

Welsh Language Scheme prepared under the Welsh Language Act 1993 This Scheme received the approval of the Board under section 14 (1) of the Act on 30 August 2007.

1. OPENING STATEMENT

Lampeter Town Council has adopted the principle that in the conduct of public business in Wales it will treat Welsh and English on a basis of equality. This scheme sets out how the Council will implement that principle in the provision of services to the public in Lampeter.

The Council recognises that members of the public can express their views and needs better in their preferred language, that enabling them to use their preferred language is a matter of good practice rather than a concession and that the denial of that right could place members of the public at a real disadvantage. The Council will therefore offer the public the right to choose which language to use in dealings with the Council.

The Council aims:

- to enable everyone who receives or uses the Council's services or contributes to the democratic process to do so through the medium of Welsh or English, according to personal choice;
- to encourage the use of the Welsh language in the community;
- to encourage others to use the Welsh language in the community.

2. INTRODUCTION TO LAMPETER TOWN COUNCIL

Amongst the Council's main duties are:

- to maintain public footpaths;
- to consider planning matters;
- to suggest improvements regarding highways;
- to work with the police to safeguard the community;
- to provide Christmas lights every year;
- to provide financial assistance for various voluntary organisations and charities;
- to look after public seating and notice boards;
- to appoint representatives to numerous local and outside bodies.

There are a number of social, cultural and community groups, which play a prominent part in the life of the community. The Council is working to promote community development and social activities, and to respond to local needs in order to improve the quality of life of the residents of the area.

The Council has 15 of elected members, and the Clerk works part time from her home. The clerk is a fluent Welsh speaker. 58% of the population possess a knowledge of Welsh and there are a number of organisations which use the Welsh language such as *Merched y Wawr*, the *Urdd*, and local Chapels and

Churches. There are Welsh streams in the Primary and Comprehensive Schools. Lampeter University has a large student population.

3. SERVICE PLANNING AND DELIVERY

3.1. New Policies and Initiatives

3.1.1. In devising new policies and initiatives the Council will:

- assess the linguistic effect of any new policies and initiatives and ensure that they are consistent with the Welsh Language Scheme.
- promote and facilitate the use of Welsh wherever possible and will move closer to implementing the principle of equality fully at every opportunity.
- consult with the Welsh Language Board in advance regarding proposals that will affect the scheme, or the scheme of any other public body. The scheme will not be altered without the Board's agreement.
- ensure that those involved in formulating policy will be aware of the Scheme, and of the Council's responsibilities under the Welsh Language Act 1993.
- ensure that the measures contained in the Scheme are applied to new policies and initiatives when they are implemented.

3.2. Standards of Quality

3.2.1. Services provided in English or Welsh will be of an equally high standard and equally prompt.

4. DEALING WITH WELSH SPEAKING PUBLIC

4.1. Written Communication

4.1.1. The Council will welcome correspondence in either English or Welsh.

4.1.2. Correspondence through the medium of Welsh will not in itself lead to any delay.

4.1.3. Every letter received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh.

4.1.4. All correspondence following a telephone or face-to-face conversation in Welsh or a meeting where it was established that Welsh is the preferred language of the person, although the discussion may not have been held through the medium of Welsh, will be in Welsh.

4.1.5. All correspondence with a member of the public will be initiated in his/her preferred language if known. If it is not known initial correspondence from the Council will be bilingual.

4.1.6. All circular or standard letters to the public will be bilingual.

4.1.7. Correspondence will be drafted in the preferred language of the receiver. The Council will make arrangements to translate

other documents as needed in order to respond to
correspondence promptly and in the original language.

4.1.8. The Clerk of the Council will be responsible for translating
correspondence.

4.1.9. The Council's official headed paper will include a statement in
both languages making it clear that correspondence is
welcome in either Welsh or English.

4.2. Telephone Calls

4.2.1. The Clerk works from home and welcomes telephone calls in
Welsh or English.

4.3. Public Meetings organised by or on behalf of the Council

*[namely meetings the Council arranges with the public, for example, road
diversion, improve facilities or annual general meeting. Not the
Council's regular meetings where members of the public can attend
and listen, but not contribute without prior invitation – see 4.4.]*

4.3.1. Contributions are welcomed in either Welsh or English at public
meetings held by the Council. This will be stated clearly in
the notices that inform or publicise the meeting.

4.3.2. All publicity for public meetings will be bilingual, and will invite
those attending to notify the Clerk of their language choice
at least 14 days in advance so that appropriate translation
arrangements can be made for non Welsh-speakers.

4.3.3.

4.3.3.1 If it is evident at the beginning of a meeting that all those
present speak Welsh, the meeting will be held in
Welsh.

4.3.3.2 The Council will provide translation facilities for non
Welsh-speakers, according to need, for public
meetings arranged by or on behalf of the Council.

4.3.4. At least one staff member or Elected Member will be present at
public meetings to welcome the public and to deal with
enquiries, questions or comments in Welsh.

4.3.5. Any written materials such as leaflets or acetates that are used in
public meetings will be bilingual.

4.4. Council Meetings

*[namely the Council's regular meetings, which are open to the public, but
where the public are not part of the meeting]*

4.4.1. The Council's meetings are conducted bilingually

4.4.2. The notice and agenda for the Council's meetings will be bilingual.

4.4.3. The minutes will be in English and Welsh.

4.4.4. The Council will respond to requests for information in relation to
the minutes, or sections of the minutes in the preferred
language of the individual.

4.5. Face-to-Face Meetings with the Public

are
matters with

4.5.1. The Council will welcome meetings with the public in either Welsh or English, and will ensure that appropriate arrangements taken to enable any member of the public to discuss the Clerk in Welsh should they wish to do so.

4.6. Other Means of Communication with the Public

Welsh and

4.6.1. The Council contacts the public via modern technology namely website and e-mail and these mediums are available in English for the public.

5. THE COUNCIL'S PUBLIC FACE

5.1. Corporate Identity

web site,

5.1.1. The Council's name is "Cyngor Tref Llanbedr Pont Steffan - Lampeter Town Council."
5.1.2. The Council has already adopted a bilingual corporate identity.
5.1.3. The name and address of the Council will appear bilingually on official headed paper, fax papers and compliment slips, and any other promotional material.

5.2. Signage

responsible. The two
Welsh version
practical, Welsh version will
legibility and prominence of text will
English.

5.2.1. All new information signs or those replacing previous signs on Council property will be bilingual, as will any other public information signs for which the Council is responsible. The two languages will appear side by side, with the Welsh version appearing to the left. Where it is not practical, Welsh version will appear first. The size, quality, legibility and prominence of text will be equal in Welsh and English.

5.3. Publishing and Printing Material

both
will be

5.3.1. All publications aimed at the public, such as documents, explanatory material or grant forms will be bilingual with language versions forming one document. The versions printed side-by-side where possible to facilitate easy cross-reference, distribution and offer language choice.

5.3.2. If Welsh and English versions are published separately they will appear simultaneously, be distributed together and be accessible.

5.3.3. All press releases will be bilingual and will include a contact name for Welsh language interviews, and will specifically target *papurau bro* (monthly community papers).

5.3.4. All Advertising and publicity activities will be bilingual.

- 5.3.5. Council advertisements and notices – to be placed in the press, on notice boards or any other medium will be bilingual.
- 5.3.6. Job advertisements will appear bilingually in English/bilingual publications and in Welsh only in Welsh language with a footnote in English.

5.4. Statutory and promotional functions

- 5.4.1. In the information that is sent to those intending to apply for financial assistance towards local activities, the Council will make it clear that there is need for applicants to describe how they intend to reflect the bilingual nature of the community and their audience in the activity(ies) for which they require financial support. When considering applications, the Council will ensure that applicants have appropriately reflected the linguistic nature of the community and their audience in their application.
- 5.4.2. The Council will favour applications that have appropriately reflected the linguistic nature of the community and their audience.
- 5.4.3. The Council will also notify the applicant that *Cered* can provide advice and practical assistance in relation to the bilingual content of the activity, including information on grants available for this purpose.
- 5.4.4. When the Council is consulted on planning applications, the Council will encourage applicants to erect signs bilingually in locations such as offices, businesses and shops and supermarkets by referring to the linguistic nature of the area.
- 5.4.5. When the Council is consulted on the naming of streets, developments and new estates, the Council will support the use of Welsh names. Where only minor differences exist between the Welsh and English spelling of place, street, ward, or community names, the Council will support the adoption of the Welsh version.

5.5. Services by Other parties

- 5.5.1. Any arrangements made by the Council to use a third party to deliver services to the public on its behalf will comply with the specific requirements in the Scheme as outlined by the Council. The Council will outline which relevant measures in the Scheme tendering or the third party will have to adhere to within the contract specifications.
- 5.5.2. The Third party will need to confirm that it has complied with the relevant aspects of the Scheme by letter.

6. IMPLEMENTING AND MONITORING THE SCHEME

6.1. Staffing

6.1.1. The Clerk of the Council is bilingual. When that post becomes vacant it will be filled by a bilingual member of staff.

6.2. Administrative Arrangements

6.2.1. This scheme has the full support of the Council.

6.2.2. The Clerk will be responsible for implementing the Scheme on a day-to-day basis within the Council. According to need, the Clerk will ensure that guidelines and instructions will be available to all who are involved in the implementation of the scheme.

6.3. The Translation Service

6.3.1. The Clerk will be responsible for the written translation needs of the Council, and will also be responsible for the standard of all Welsh text produced.

6.3.2. If the Clerk cannot complete the work within the required timescale then the council will employ an external translator.

6.3.3. The Clerk will be responsible for arranging simultaneous translation facilities for all the Council's needs.

6.3.4. When needed, this facility will be available for all public meetings arranged by or on behalf of the Council, and in any other Council meeting if that is the decision of the Council.

6.4. Monitoring

6.4.1. Responsibility for monitoring the Scheme will rest with the Welsh Language Sub-Committee.

6.4.2. The Council will receive a brief annual report on implementing the Scheme that will be displayed locally (for example, the local press, information boards, monthly paper and so on) with a copy being sent to the Welsh Language Board. Also the Council will invite local Welsh speaking residents to offer their views on the service and how it could be improved, by placing a copy of the Report in the local library.

6.4.3. The Report will deal with every aspect of the Scheme.

6.4.4. The Council will welcome suggestions from the public regarding improvements to any aspect of the Scheme (via letter or telephone communication).

6.5. Publicity

6.5.1. The Council will publicise the Scheme regularly through the local press and on its notice boards.

6.6. Contacting the Council

6.6.1. Any comments, complaints or suggestions regarding the Scheme should be addressed to: Eleri Thomas, Town Clerk, Lampeter Town Council, 38 Penbryn, Lampeter, Ceredigion, SA48 7EU. Tel (01570) 421496

E-mail Lamptc@ceredigion.gov.uk