

LAMPETER TOWN COUNCIL WELSH LANGUAGE POLICY ANNUAL REPORT 2008

Lampeter Town Council adopted a Welsh Language Policy under the Welsh Language Act 1993 on August 30th 2007. Point 6.4 of the policy requires that the council receive an annual report, that the public are able to comment on the report and that it is submitted to the Welsh Language Board.

Cllrs. Rob Phillips, Dorothy Williams, Chris Thomas, Selwyn Walters and the Town Clerk were appointed to the council's Welsh Language Committee to prepare the annual report. This report does not consider every point in the policy but notes individual successes and recommends changes in practice where this is required.

3 PLANNING AND DELIVERING SERVICES

Three major initiatives were brought before the council during the last year, establishing the Cittaslow committee, endorsing Transition Llambled and establishing the youth centre in town. The Cittaslow and Transition initiatives have supporting the local economy and culture. The Transition group has also established a specific Welsh Language Action Group. Ceredigion Council provides the youth workers who operate the youth centre. One of these is a fluent Welsh speakers while the other 2 are learners.

4 DEALING WITH WELSH SPEAKING PUBLIC

The council has received a number of letter and e-mails in Welsh during the past year and they have all been answered in Welsh. The fact that the council welcomes correspondence in English or Welsh is made clear on each letter sent.

The council organised one public meeting (to establish the Cittaslow Committee) during the last year. No translation service was provided at the meeting as no-one had informed the clerk of their chosen language. However the requirement to do so was not made clear on the posters and it is recommended that this is addressed for future public meetings

The council's website is bi-lingual and all agendas, minutes and documents published since the implementation of the policy are provided bilingually. Now a signature is provided on all e-mails advising recipients that the council welcomes correspondence in Welsh or English

5. THE COUNCIL'S PUBLIC FACE

Headed paper, the website and council e-mails are all bi-lingual. A message on council headed paper and e-mails states that correspondence is welcomed in English or Welsh.

During the year Western Mail & Echo Ltd published a guide book to Lampeter. Although the council had influence or no-editorial control over the publication the Mayor provided his welcome in both English and Welsh. Western Mail & Echo Ltd decided only to use the English version and the Mayor made clear his unhappiness in this regard.

The council has considered the Welsh language when awarding grants this has not happened in a formal way. It is recommended that in future the council requests a brief statement from applicants in the same way as a balance sheet in requested. It is also recommended that a sentence explaining the services offered by Cered is added to all letters confirming the award of a grant.

Significant grants were awarded to Eisteddfod Rhys Thomas James Pantyfedwen, Gwyl Dewi Drwg and Urdd Gobaith Cymru

Only one street name came up for discussion. The application was for a Welsh language name (Maes Hyfryd).

The clerk has expressed some concerns that on occasion she feels that she does not have enough time to fully complete her responsibilities under the policy.

6. IMPLEMENTING AND MONITORING THE SCHEME

It is recommended that a press release is supplied to the *Cambrian News* and *Carmarthen Journal* and an advert is placed in *Clonc* drawing attention to the annual review of the Welsh Language Scheme. It is further recommended that copies are placed in the town library and on the website. Copies should also be available from the Town Clerk.

Welsh Language Sub Committee
10 October 2008