

## **LAMPETER TOWN COUNCIL WELSH LANGUAGE POLICY ANNUAL REPORT 2016**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- a. Lampeter Town Council adopted a Welsh Language Policy under the Welsh Language Act 1993 on August 30<sup>th</sup> 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.
- b. Cllrs. Rob Phillips, Dorothy Williams, Chris Thomas, Selwyn Walters, Ann Morgan and the Town Clerk were appointed to the council's Welsh Language Committee to prepare the annual report.
- c. This report does not consider every point in the policy but notes individual successes and recommends changes in practice where this is required.
- d. Recommendations to improve the Welsh Language Scheme are made under section 7.

### **2. PLANNING AND DELIVERING SERVICES**

- a. The council has continued to promote the Welsh language in the community in accordance with our policy including financially supporting the Eisteddfod Rhys Thomas James (Pantfedwen) Llanbedr Pont Steffan, Adran and Aelwyd yr Urdd, Llanbedr Pont Steffan, Urdd Gobaith Cymru (Ceredigion), Ras yr Iaith and Theatr Felin-fach (for Teilwng yw'r Oen).
- b. No changes to the Welsh language Scheme were proposed during the year.
- c. The council made an application to Ceredigion County Council to consider Lampeter as a location for the National Eisteddfod of Wales in 2020. A public meeting was held which attracted significant support from the district. A committee representing local organisations was formed to draw up the application with support from the council.

### **3. DEALING WITH WELSH SPEAKING PUBLIC**

- a. The council has continued the practice of answering correspondence received in Welsh in Welsh. The fact that the council welcomes correspondence in English or Welsh is made clear on each letter sent.
- b. The council has continued to operate a bilingual website, with all council minutes and static content available in both English and Welsh.
- c. The council has continued the provision of simultaneous translation at the Mayor's Installation Ceremony, full meetings of the council and any public meetings organised by the council.
- d. The council clarified that correspondence received in Welsh should be read to meetings in Welsh, correspondence received in English should be read in English and correspondence received bilingually could be read in either language.

#### **4. THE COUNCIL'S PUBLIC FACE**

- a. 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.
- b. The Council published a bi-lingual programme for the Remembrance Sunday ceremony.
- c. The council considers the Welsh Language when awarding grants. A form, to be completed by those applying for funding asks how they will reflect the linguistic character of the area.

#### **5. IMPLEMENTING AND MONITORING THE SCHEME**

- a. It is recommended that a press release is supplied to the *Cambrian News*, *Ceredigion Herald* and *Carmarthen Journal* and an advert is placed in *Clonc* drawing attention to the annual review of the Welsh Language Scheme and asking for comments.
- b. 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.

#### **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- a. That the council continues with simultaneous translation arrangements in regular monthly meetings.
- b. That the council should work with *Clonc* to support the paper and promote Welsh language events.
- c. That the council works with other organisations to establish a 'Pwerdy laith' to promote the use of Welsh, create opportunities for socialising in Welsh and increase the number of Welsh speakers.
- d. That the council considers holding a St David's Day event.

**Welsh Language Committee  
May 2017**