

LAMPETER TOWN COUNCIL WELSH LANGUAGE POLICY ANNUAL REPORT 2012

1. INTRODUCTION

- a. 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.
- 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. CYFRIFAD 2011

- a. The figures regarding the number of Welsh speakers in Lampeter in 2011 are now available.
- b. There has been a fall in the number of Welsh speakers in each division.
- c. The largest falls have been in the ability to read and write Welsh

	2001		2011	
Population	2,803		2,870	
Understands spoken Welsh	1,437	51.2%	1,410	49.1%
Can speak Welsh	1,449	51.6%	1,346	46.8%
Can read Welsh	1,340	47.8%	1,230	42.8%
Can write Welsh	1,239	44.2%	1,107	38.5%
Can speak, read and write Welsh	1,503	53.6%	1,412	49.1%

3. 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 Rhys Thomas James (Pantymfedwen) Eisteddfod, Urdd Gobaith Cymru Volunteering project, Adran yr Urdd Llanbedr Pont Steffan, Urdd Gobaith Cymru Ceredigion and the National Eisteddfod.
- b. While drafting and adopting new standing orders, the Welsh language Committee was made a standing committee of the council.
- c. 1,000 fully bi-lingual leaflets in tete-beche format to promote the town to visitors.
- d. No changes to the Welsh language Scheme were proposed during the year.

4. DEALING WITH WELSH SPEAKING PUBLIC

- a. 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.
- b. The council has continued to operate a bilingual website, with all council minutes and static content available in both English and Welsh.
- c. A simultaneous translation service was provided at the Mayor's Installation Ceremony.

5. 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.

6. IMPLEMENTING AND MONITORING THE SCHEME

- a. 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 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.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. That councillors should be encouraged to make more use of their Welsh during council meetings, especially during the Mayoral installation Ceremony when a translation service is available.
- b. That the council should work with *Clonc* to support the paper and promote Welsh language events.
- c. That the council supports Ras yr iaith when it visits Lampeter (14th Sept. 2013).
- d. That the Welsh Language Committee considers further ways to increase the number of Welsh speakers and the use of Welsh in the town.