

Draft Welsh Language Strategy objectives 2021-2026

Consultation document

Date of issue: 10 May 2021

Action required: Responses by 18 June 2020

Tel: (01656) 643 643

Email: consultation@bridgend.gov.uk

Web: www.bridgend.gov.uk/consultation

Draft Welsh Language Strategy objectives consultation

Overview

This consultation is to invite views on Bridgend County Borough Council's Draft Welsh Language Strategy objectives 2021-2026.

This consultation aims to seek the views of residents, our workforce, elected members and stakeholders on the proposed Welsh Language Objectives for 2021-2026.

The results from this consultation will be used to inform our final Welsh Language Strategy 2021-2026, which will be implemented in September 2021.

The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011

The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 makes Welsh an official language in Wales. This means it must be treated no less favourably than English.

The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 established a legal framework to impose a statutory duty on public bodies in Wales to comply with the Welsh Language Standards. The Welsh Language Standards replaced the Welsh Language Act 1993. It recognises that there are two official languages in Wales- Welsh and English. The legislation enables people to live their lives through the medium of Welsh, if they choose to do so.

Welsh Language Standards

The Welsh Language Standards were published by the Welsh Language Commissioner. Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) received its final Welsh Language Standards compliance notice in September 2015. This notice comprised of 171 standards, 144 required by March 2016 and a further 27 by September 2016. The Commissioner put these into five themes.

- Service delivery;
- Policy making;
- Promotion;
- Operational;
- Record keeping.

The purpose of the Standards is to:

- Provide greater clarity to organisations about their duties regarding the Welsh Language
- Provide greater clarity to Welsh speakers about the services they can expect to receive in Welsh
- Ensure greater consistency of Welsh language services and improve their quality

The Welsh Language Standards require us to produce an annual report which outlines how we have complied with the standards, progress made towards our objectives, and how, in collaboration

with our partners, we have promoted the Welsh language and facilitated the use of the Welsh language more widely in the county borough.

The Welsh Language Commissioner

Aled Roberts is the Welsh Language Commissioner. He started in the role in 2019 and was appointed for a period of seven years. The Welsh Language Commissioner's vision is to see a Wales where people can use Welsh in their everyday lives. The Commissioner's principal aim is to promote and facilitate the use of the Welsh language and, amongst other things, work towards ensuring that the Welsh language is treated no less favourably than the English language. The Commissioner is supported by an advisory panel. The Welsh Language Commissioner has a statutory duty to monitor organisations' compliance with the Welsh Language Standards, and investigate complaints and breaches in compliance. It is within their power to impose enforcement action, county court judgements and fines.

How to respond

This consultation period will begin on the **10 May 2021** and close on the **18 June 2021**. You can respond or ask further questions in the following ways:

Tel: (01656) 643 643

Email: consultation@bridgend.gov.uk

Online: [Click here to visit Bridgend County Borough Council's consultation page](#)

Post: Communications, Marketing and Engagement, Bridgend County Borough local authority, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB. Alternative formats are also available upon request.

Data protection

Information provided by you on this form will be used to inform the Welsh Language Strategy 2021-2026

The council will take all reasonable precautions to ensure confidentiality and to comply with data protection legislation. Your information may be shared with relevant service areas for the purposes of future policy development. Your information will be retained in accordance with the Council's Data Retention Policy.

You have a number of rights under data protection legislation. You may also withdraw your consent and ask us to delete your personal information at any time by contacting us. Further information about this is available on our website or you may contact the Data Protection Officer.

If you are dissatisfied with the manner in which we process your personal data then you have the option to make a complaint to the Data Protection Officer and the Information Commissioner's Office.

Related documents

- The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011

- Welsh Language Standards
- Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Welsh Government: More than just words: The strategic framework for Welsh language services in health and social care
- Welsh in Education Strategic Plans
- Bridgend County Borough Council corporate plan 2018 -2022

The Purpose of the Welsh Language Strategy

The Welsh Language Standards places a requirement on the council to produce a five year Welsh Language Strategy. This is a statutory requirement relating to the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure passed by the National Assembly for Wales in 2011. This is our second Welsh Language Strategy and aims to build on progress made over the last five years.

Welsh Language standard 145

You must produce, and publish on your website, a 5-year strategy that sets out how you propose to promote the Welsh language and to facilitate the use of the Welsh language more widely in your area; and the strategy must include (amongst other matters) - (a) a target (in terms of the percentage of speakers in your area) for increasing or maintaining the number of Welsh speakers in your area by the end of the 5 year period concerned, and (b) a statement setting out how you intend to reach that target; and you must review the strategy and publish a revised version on your website within 5 years of publishing a strategy (or of publishing a revised strategy).

Welsh Language standard 146

Five years after publishing a strategy in accordance with standard 145 you must - (a) assess to what extent you have followed that strategy and have reached the target set by it, and (b) publish that assessment on your website, ensuring that it contains the following information - (i) the number of Welsh speakers in your area, and the age of those speakers; (ii) a list of the activities that you have arranged or funded during the previous 5 years in order to promote the use of the Welsh language.

The current draft strategy builds on the progress we have made, meets the needs of Welsh speakers and learners in the county borough, the legislative requirements and most importantly, is meaningful, appropriate and achievable for everyone involved.

Relevant information we will use

As well as listening to our residents, communities and our staff we will also use a range of information to support us in identifying objectives.

We will look at regional priorities for Bridgend, council priorities, service delivery plans and will review the progress that the council's services have already made in relation to the previous Welsh Language Strategy.

In devising this strategy we have considered the policy context and will create a language profile of Bridgend County. This means that our strategy uses established national criteria but localises the information and targets.

We will review national and external sources of information including the Welsh Language Commissioners strategic objectives which are:

- Influencing policy to develop the Welsh language
- Expanding people's rights to use Welsh
- Ensuring that public bodies comply with Welsh language standards
- Facilitating wider use of Welsh with businesses and charities

How we developed our Welsh Language Strategy Objectives

In order to develop our equalities objectives we have:

- Reviewed our Welsh Language Strategy 2016-2021, our action plan for this period and annual reports;
- Used the council's corporate objectives of supporting a successful economy; helping people to be more self-reliant and smarter use of resources to help provide a structure and approach to reviewing our objectives;
- Considered national and local issues;
- Used feedback that we regularly get from residents, groups and partners, such as the WESP forum;
- Considered the Welsh Language Commissioners strategic objectives;
- Identified key partners who will support us in meeting our objectives;
- Reviewed Welsh language learning provision including the number of Welsh nurseries, schools and adult learning provision;
- Created a language profile of Bridgend County Borough;
- Reviewed relevant policies including: Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers, The Well-being of Future Generations Act, More than just words (Welsh Government), Welsh in Education Strategic Plans and Bridgend County Borough Council corporate plan 2018 -2022

Our Welsh Language objectives

To develop the Welsh Language objectives we will engage with residents, staff, elected members and stakeholders and use relevant information and policies. Our draft Welsh Language Objectives are detailed below:

Objective one: Promote the use of the Welsh Language within the workforce

Objective two: Increase awareness of the Welsh Language Standards and opportunities to use Welsh within Bridgend County Borough Council

Objective three: Support and promote the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)

Objective four: Promote the use of Welsh Language and culture in town center businesses and charities

Objective five: Encourage statutory participation and engagement through the Welsh Language

Objective six: Implement the new Welsh language early years settings in Bridgend County Borough

Process

The purpose of this consultation document is to outline the overarching objectives which will then enable us to develop an action plan to support our objectives. This document has been prepared to provide information about the objectives in order to allow residents, our workforce, stakeholders and elected members the opportunity to have their say.

Following the conclusion of the consultation period all comments received will be presented to the local authority's Cabinet and all views expressed will be taken into account in the compilation of the Welsh Language Strategy 2021-2026

The timetable for the consultation is:

- Consultation will begin on 10 May 2021;
- The consultation will close on 18 June 2021;
- The Welsh Language Strategy will be published in September 2021.

Who is being consulted

This consultation aims to seek the views of residents, staff, elected members and stakeholders on the proposed Objectives for the Welsh Language Strategy 2021-2026.