

## **AGENDA ITEM 2**

### **WELSH LANGUAGE CABINET STEERING GROUP 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2014.**

#### **TERMS OF REFERENCE & MEMBERSHIP OF THE WELSH LANGUAGE CABINET STEERING GROUP.**

*Mrs Emma Wilkins - Cabinet Support Officer*

#### **1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT.**

- 1.1** To remind Members of the Terms of the Reference of the Steering Group as outlined within the Leaders Scheme of Delegation of Executive Functions, including Membership and frequency of Meetings.

#### **2 TERMS OF REFERENCE**

- 2.1** Terms of Reference: In accordance with the Welsh Language (Wales) 2011 Measure, two principles underpin the terms of reference of the Welsh Language Working Group:

- In Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, the Welsh language should be treated no less favourably than the English language
- Persons in Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council should be able to live their lives through the medium of Welsh if they choose to do so.

#### **3 PURPOSE OF THE GROUP**

- 3.1** The Steering Group:-

- Has been established to ensure an Authority-wide approach in the delivery of services through the medium of Welsh, in accordance with the Welsh Language (Wales) 2011 Measure, specifically the Statutory Standards relating to the Welsh Language / Statutory Welsh Language Scheme.
- Membership will provide strategic direction in the implementation of the aforementioned legislation / policies and any local policies regarding the Welsh language and support the Welsh Language Services Unit in carrying out its duties.
- Membership will consider how it can support access to services in the medium of Welsh.

#### **4 MEMBERSHIP**

- 4.1** As outlined within the Leaders Scheme of Delegation the following Cabinet representation will be included within the membership :- County Borough Councillors G.Hopkins (Chair), (Mrs) E. Hanagan (Vice-Chair), R.Bevan

and (Mrs) M.Webber

- 4.2 During a meeting of Rhondda Cynon Taf Council on the 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2014 County Borough Councillor G Hopkins extended an invite to County Borough Councillor Cennard Davies to become a member of the Steering Group, which was accepted.
- 4.3 In respect of Officer representation it is outlined that the Welsh Language Working Group membership should include Group Director representation (currently Director of Education and Lifelong Learning), officer representation and external Welsh medium representation.
- 4.4 The Working Group will include the Head of Welsh Language Services Unit, and the Head of Service (currently Head of Community Learning)
- 4.5 In respect of External representation it is the intention to invite Menter Iaith to attend the Steering Group. This enables both Menter Iaith and the Welsh Language Services Unit to discuss issues that affect Welsh medium service delivery in the community on a strategic level and to work in partnership to provide improved and better outcomes for clients

## **5 CHAMPIONS**

- 5.1 The Cabinet Member will Chair the Steering Group and will also be the Welsh Language Member Champion.
- 5.2 The Group Director Representative will be the Welsh Language Officer Champion.
- 5.3 Both Welsh Language Champion roles will raise the profile of any relevant legislation and policies at Cabinet and Corporate Management Team level as well as addressing complex areas in the Directorates and service groups in terms of service delivery. The roles are integral in terms of seeking support to Welsh language legislation and policies at the highest level.

## **6 FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS**

- 6.1 Meetings will be every six months unless otherwise agreed by the Working Group.
- 6.2 To assist Members diaries, two meetings will be scheduled for the Steering Group for the Municipal year, following completion of the Calendar of Meetings at the Council AGM in May 2015.

6.3 Further meetings of the group will be scheduled on an ad hoc basis, if business needs require.

## **7 RECOMMENDATIONS.**

7.1 It is recommended that Members:-

- a) Note the contents of the Report
- b) Agree the Terms of Reference as detailed within the Leaders Scheme of Delegation, as outlined above.