

WELSH LANGUAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT TOOL

This Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIS) tool enables RCT Council to consider the principles and requirements of the [Welsh Language Standards \(No.1\) Regulations 2015](#) to ensure compliance with the [Welsh Language \(Wales\) Measure 2011](#).

Stage 1 – Information Gathering

NOTE: As you complete this tool you will be asked for **evidence to support your views**. Please see [Welsh Language Impact Assessment Guidance](#) for more information on data sources.

Proposal Name:	COUNCIL TAX PREMIUMS
Department	Revenues & Benefits
Service Director	Ian Traylor
Officer Completing the WLIA	Matthew Phillips
Email	Matthew.D.Phillips@rctcbc.gov.uk
Phone	
Brief Description	<p>The proposal is to increase the level of council tax premium to be paid in addition to the normal level of council tax by owners of properties classed as long-term empty (with the existing Council Tax premium for second homes proposed to be maintained at the current level). Full details of the proposal can be found in the Cabinet report below:</p> <p>https://rctcbc.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=132&MId=50005056&Ver=4&LLL=0</p>
Date	10 th July 2024
Please outline who this proposal affects?	<p>The proposal will affect owners of long-term empty properties.</p> <p>The proposal will positively affect wider local communities.</p>

(Service Users, Employees, Wider Community)	
What are the aims of the policy, and how do these relate to the Welsh Language?	<p>The proposal is part of a range of interventions intended to bring empty properties back into use and therefore this could potentially provide more housing options for all, particularly younger people who may otherwise have difficulty in identifying and securing suitable accommodation.</p> <p>The proposal does not relate to the Welsh language.</p>
Who will benefit / Could the policy affect Welsh language groups? If so, list them here.	There will be no direct benefit or impact on any Welsh language groups.
Current linguistic profile of the geographical area(s) concerned	Not known
Other relevant data or research	Not appropriate

Stage 2 – Impact Assessment

In this section you need to consider the impact, the evidence and any action you are taking for improvement. This is to ensure that the opportunities for people who choose to live their lives and access services through the medium of Welsh are not inferior to what is afforded to those choosing to do so in English, in accordance with the requirement of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

Please note there is a separate impact assessment for Equality and Socio-Economic duty that must also be completed for policy proposals.

Remember that effects that are positive for some groups could be detrimental to others - even among Welsh language groups. Consider the effects on different groups. For example, a proposal may be beneficial to Welsh learners, but not to Welsh speakers.

Previous Welsh Language Impact Assessments can be found on Inform by [clicking here](#).

Will the proposed action affect any or all of the following?

	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts?	Describe why it will have a positive/negative or neutral impact on the Welsh language.	What evidence do you have to support this view?	What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language e.g. staff, residents and visitors The rights of Welsh speakers and learners to	Neutral impact	The policy is not anticipated to have any material impact on opportunities to use the Welsh language that do not already exist.	The Local Housing Market Assessment, Empty Homes Strategy and Housing Support Programme Strategy closely align to the proposed policy change and note positive impacts in terms of the Welsh Language: • The Council's Local Housing Market Assessment 2023 – 2028 -	This will be further considered as part of feedback received via the public consultation exercise (subject to Cabinet agreeing to initiate a consultation).

<p>use Welsh when dealing with the council and for staff to use Welsh at Work</p>			<p>https://rctcbc.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=132&MId=50004671&Ver=4&LLL=0</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empty Homes Strategy for 2022 – 2025 – https://rctcbc.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=132&MId=50004409&Ver=4&LLL=0 • Housing Support Programme Strategy 2022–26 - https://rctcbc.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=132&MId=50004170&Ver=4&LLL=0 <p>In addition, the previous public consultation undertaken on the introduction of council tax premiums did not identify any impacts on the Welsh language.</p> <p>This will be further considered as part of a new consultation exercise on Council Tax Premiums, as set out earlier (subject to Cabinet agreeing to initiate a consultation).</p>	
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Stage 2 – Impact Assessment

Will the proposed action affect any or all of the following?

	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts?	Describe why it will have a positive/negative or neutral impact on the Welsh language.	What evidence do you have to support this view?	What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Numbers and / or percentages of Welsh speakers e.g Welsh Medium Education / Study Opportunities. Links with the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 Strategy / RCTCBC Five Year Welsh Language Strategy	Positive	The availability of more properties may provide the potential for more Welsh speakers to move into the County Borough.	See above.	See above.
Opportunities to promote the Welsh language e.g. status, use of Welsh language services, use of Welsh in everyday life in work and in the community Actively encourage and promote the use of our services in Welsh to see an increase in demand over time	Positive	The availability of more properties may provide the potential for more Welsh speakers to move into the County Borough.	See above.	See above.

Stage 2 – Impact Assessment

Will the proposed action affect any or all of the following?

	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts?	Describe why it will have a positive/negative or neutral impact on the Welsh language.	What evidence do you have to support this view?	What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Compliance with the Council's Statutory Welsh Language Standards e.g increasing or reducing the Council's ability to deliver services through the Medium of Welsh. Consider the rights of Welsh speakers to use Welsh when dealing with the Council and for staff to use Welsh at Work	Neutral impact	The policy is not anticipated to have any material impact on opportunities to use the Welsh language that do not already exist.	See above.	See above.
Treating the Welsh language, no less favourably than the English language	Neutral impact	The policy is not anticipated to have any material impact on opportunities to use the Welsh language that do not already exist.	See above.	See above.

Stage 3 - Strengthening the proposal

Having listed actions in section 2 which may mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts – please record below which ones you will imbed into the policy proposal and who will be responsible for them.

Also consider is the proposal necessary? Would it be possible to meet demand without any new developments? Could other existing provision be used? Where should the development be?

What are you going to do?	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible?
The previous public consultation undertaken on the introduction of council tax premiums did not identify any impacts on the Welsh language. This will be further considered as part of a new consultation exercise on Council Tax Premiums, as set out earlier (subject to Cabinet agreeing to initiate a consultation).		
If ways of reducing the impact have been identified but are not possible to implement, please explain why. Give sufficient detail of data or research that has led to your reasoning.		
What was identified?	Why is it not possible?	
See above.		

Stage 4 – Review

For all policy proposals, whether it is a Significant Key Decision or not, you are required to forward this assessment to Welsh Language services – welshlanguageofficer@rctcbc.gov.uk and the Consultation and Engagement team – consultation@rctcbc.gov.uk in the first instance for some initial guidance and feedback.

As part of the Welsh Language, Equalities and Socio Economic Duty Impact Assessment Process all proposals that fall within the definition of Significant Key Decision should present at the Officer Review Panel. This panel is made up of officers from across Council Services and acts as a critical friend before your report is finalised and published for SLT/Cabinet approval.

If this proposal is a Key Strategic Decision please forward your completed (Stage 1>6) impact assessment, policy proposal/report and consultation report to CouncilBusiness@rctcbc.gov.uk for an Officer Review Panel to be organised to discuss your proposal. [See our guidance document](#) for more information on what a Significant Key Decision is.

It is important to keep a record of this process so that we can demonstrate how we have considered and built in sustainable Welsh language considerations wherever possible. Please ensure you update the relevant sections below in collaboration with the relevant departments.

Subject to Cabinet agreeing to initiate a consultation on the Council Tax Premium proposals set out earlier, the feedback from the consultation will be considered and the Impact Assessment updated, as appropriate, and reviewed as per below.

Welsh Language Services Comments	Date Considered	Brief description of any amendments made following Welsh Language Services feedback
Officer Review Panel Comments	Date Considered	Brief description of any amendments made following Officer Review Panel considerations
Consultation Comments	Date Considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consultation

Stage 5 – Monitoring, Evaluating and Reviewing

How and who will you monitor the impact and effectiveness of the proposal?

There will be no direct benefit or impact on any Welsh language groups.

Stage 6 – Summary of Impacts for the Proposal

Provide below a summary of the impact assessment, to include some of the main positive and negative impacts along with an overview of actions taken since the impact assessment to better contribute to more positive impacts. This summary must be included in the Welsh Language Considerations section of the SLT/Cabinet report template. It is not suitable to only write 'please see full report at Appendix x' in the body of the report. The impact assessment must be published alongside the report.

A Welsh Language Impact Assessment has been completed and the main findings are as follows –

There is no evidence to suggest this proposed policy change will have any impact in relation to the Welsh Language.

Stage 7 – Sign Off

Name of Officer completing the WLIA	Matthew Phillips	Service Director Name:	Ian Traylor
Position	Head of Service	I recommend that the proposal: (Highlight decision)	Is implemented (subject to consideration of feedback received from the proposed public consultation exercise and review arrangements)
Signature		Service Director Signature	

Date	10 th July 2024	Date	
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