

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CABINET: 24<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2024

REFERENCE FROM LEARNING AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:  
19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2024

“371 WELSH LANGUAGE STANDARDS ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2023-24 (REF) –

The reference from Cabinet of 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2024 as contained within the agenda was presented.

Councillor Asbrey highlighted some issues being experienced of families living in Dinas Powys and there not being a Council budget to transport children to Ysgol Pen y Garth. Therefore, there were a number of parents that had sent their children to English Medium schools. In reply, and with permission to speak, Councillor Birch (Cabinet Member for Education, Arts and the Welsh Language) stated that she would take up the issue with the School Transport Team.

G. Scott (non-voting observer – Welsh Medium Education) commented on the number of Vale of Glamorgan staff who were not recording their level of Welsh Language understanding. Data within the report encompassed only one third of Council staff. Mr. Scott stated that within his role for the Gwent Health Board they had managed to improve the level of information provided by staff and he would be willing to offer assistance to the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Councillor Hodges suggested that the Vale of Glamorgan Council should bid to host the 2029 Urdd Eisteddfod in Barry.

Councillor Payne stated that there was a known issue around recruiting staff with Welsh language skills and she asked what the Council could do to maximise opportunities to recruit and retain teaching and other staff. In reply, the Head of Strategy, Community Learning and Resources advised that the recruitment of staff with Welsh language skills was a well-known challenge and one of the ways the Council was looking to improve the situation was through the use of a graduation scheme from those pupils that had attended Ysgol Bro Morgannwg. That allowed them opportunities to come back and work for the Vale of Glamorgan Council. To support that initiative, the Council had been able to obtain some grant funding from Welsh Government. Progress on the initiative would be provided to the Scrutiny Committee.

In terms of recruiting staff with Welsh language skills, Mr. Scott highlighted that his organisation had seen an increase in applications where the job specification highlighted that free Welsh training would be provided. The Head of Strategy, Community Learning and Resources added that it was important to ensure that

managers allowed staff protected time in order that they could undertake the learning.

Subsequently, it was

RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T the Annual Welsh Monitoring Report for 2023-24 (attached at Appendix 1 to the report) and Update on the Welsh Language Promotional Strategy (attached at Appendix 2 to the report) be endorsed.

(2) T H A T the comments made by the Committee be referred to Cabinet for their consideration, which included the following:

- That the Council considers a bid to host the 2029 Urdd Eisteddfod at Barry.
- That the Council looks to maximise the opportunities to recruit and retain teaching staff and others with Welsh language skills.

Reasons for recommendations

(1) Having regard to the contents of the reference, appended report and discussions at the meeting.

(2) In order for Cabinet to consider the comments made at the Scrutiny meeting.”