

Meeting	Agenda Item	Reference No
19/09/07	24	HEFCW/07/82

1 Issue

The paper presents for information the second annual compliance report on the Council's Welsh Language Scheme.

2 Corporate Planning Implications/Rationale for paper

HEFCW has a statutory responsibility to have a Welsh Language Scheme, approved by the Welsh Language Board and to submit an annual compliance report to the Board.

3 Recommendation

The Council is invited to note the annual compliance report submitted to the Welsh Language Board.

4 Timing for decisions

This paper is presented for information. There are no timing implications.

5 Council members' interests

No conflicts of interests have been declared in advance of the meeting.

6 Further information

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Alun.Williams@hefcw.ac.uk)

7 Background

At its meeting in May 2007 the Council delegated authority to the Chief Executive to finalise the annual compliance report on the Welsh Language Scheme. We submitted the report to the Board in June 2007. It reported the progress made by HEFCW in achieving its targets as set in the Scheme's implementation plan and targets.

8 Compliance Report

The final report is attached at **Annex A**. We have yet to receive formal feedback from the Welsh Language Board on the compliance report. We are entering the third year of the Welsh Language Scheme. To ensure the continued relevance of the Scheme's requirements and objectives we are required during the third year to undertake a review and prepare a revised scheme. We have begun the process by having informal discussions with the Board.

9 Financial implications

There are no financial implications to this paper.

10 Communications implications

Once we receive feedback from the Board, the compliance report will be placed on the HEFCW website in accordance with the requirements of the Scheme.

11 Diversity and Equal Opportunities implications

This report has direct implications for the Council's responsibilities to support and promote the Welsh language. It has no direct implications for race, gender or disability equality.

12 Risk Assessment

RISK	ACTION TO ADDRESS RISK
Failure to meet a statutory requirement/ judgement by the Welsh Language Board that insufficient progress has been made in implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstration of progress in the annual report/highlighting of positive developments.• Noting to the Board particular issues which affect the operation of our Scheme, such as relatively low Welsh language contact with the public.• Ensuring that we respond positively to feedback/suggestions for improvement from the Board.