

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](#).

<u>Stage 1 – Information Gathering</u>	
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:	PROPOSED EXTENSION TO RHONDDA CYNON TAF CBC'S DOG CONTROL PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDERS
Department	Public Health, Protection and Communities/ Frontline Services/ Legal & Democratic Services
Service Director	Louise Davies/ Roger Waters/ Andy Wilkins
Officer Completing the WLIA	Andy Wilkins
Email	Andrew.s.wilkins@rctcbc.gov.uk
Phone	01443 424105
Brief Description	<p>The two Public Spaces Protection Orders related to dog controls within Rhondda Cynon Taf are due to expire on the 30th September 2023. At any point before expiry of these orders, the Council can vary or extend them by up to three years if it considers it necessary to prevent the original behaviour from occurring or recurring.</p> <p>The proposal, subject to the necessary consultation prescribed in legislation, is to extend those orders and to authorise officers to publicise the proposed orders as required by the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.</p>
Date	3 rd July 2023
Please outline who this proposal affects?	<input type="radio"/> Service users ✓

**(Service Users, Employees,
Wider Community)**

- Employees ✓ (in the context of those officers who administer and enforce the Dog Control PSPO's)
- Wider community ✓ (including residents and those who work in the County Borough and visit it)

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<p>What are the aims of the policy, and how do these relate to the Welsh Language?</p>	<p>Dog fouling remains a significant concern for the Council and for those who live, work and visit the County Borough.</p> <p>Dog Fouling is unpleasant and is a serious risk to human health, particularly amongst children.</p> <p>The Public Spaces Protection Orders in relation to dog controls has allowed the Council to introduce a range of reasonable and proportionate restrictions on the use of publicly accessible land across the County Borough and helped control the harmful activities of irresponsible dog owners whilst allowing responsible dog owners to continue to exercise their dogs without undue restrictions.</p> <p>Despite the introduction of the orders in October 2017 and their renewal in October 2020 there remains a minority of dog owners who do not clean up after their dogs or keep them under control. Officers therefore consider it vital the orders, which would ordinarily expire on 30th September 2023, are renewed for a further three year period in order to maintain the significant benefits the orders have had in relation to dog fouling and ensure appropriate powers remain in place to deal with the minority who continue to flout the laws</p> <p>The Cabinet report can be found here (Agenda Item 6).</p> <p>There are no specific links as to the use of the Welsh Language in respect of the proposal – Signs that are used to transmit the details of the Dog Control PSPO to the public in relevant locations are all bilingual and will remain so should the PSPO be extended. Fixed Penalty Notices are also issued bilingually.</p>
<p>Who will benefit / Could the policy affect Welsh language groups? If so, list them here.</p>	<p>All members of the public who live, work and visit the County Borough benefit from a safer, cleaner environment as a result of reduced dog fouling and dogs being kept under control. The proposal will not specifically affect Welsh Language groups.</p>
<p>Current linguistic profile of the geographical area(s) concerned</p>	<p>The 2021 Census figures regarding the Welsh language show a decrease in the percentage of Welsh speakers across Wales to 17.8%. There was, however, a small increase in RCT – the percentage of the population of the county borough who can speak Welsh increased from 12.3% to 12.4%. Numerically, RCT saw a 2.8% increase in the number of Welsh speakers in the county borough, from 27,779 speakers to 28,556 speakers. RCT was also one of only four LAs in Wales to see an increase in the percentage of Welsh speakers – the others were Cardiff, the Vale of Glamorgan and Merthyr Tudful. All of these are neighbouring</p>

	county boroughs, which could demonstrate that our region is seeing some positive trends in terms of increases in Welsh speakers, and that there may be a resulting increase in demand for services through the medium of Welsh. As further, more detailed, data from the Census becomes available for RCT (e.g. LSOA data), we will need to consider what impact it may have on the services we provide.
Other relevant data or research	THE CONSULTATION PROCESS WILL INCLUDE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ON THE WELSH LANGUAGE, GIVING RESIDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS ANY RELEVANT VIEWS OR CONCERNS. ANY RELEVANT DATA COLLECTED THROUGH THE CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT PROCESS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE FINAL WLIA PRIOR TO ANY DECISION BEING TAKEN IN RESPECT OF THE PROPOSAL

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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?
<p>Opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language</p> <p>e.g. staff, residents and visitors</p> <p>The rights of Welsh speakers and learners to use Welsh when dealing with the council and for staff to use Welsh at Work</p>	Positive	Whilst there are no specific impacts on the use of the Welsh Language as a result of this proposal, the signs that are used to transmit the details of the Dog Control PSPO to the public in relevant locations are all bilingual and will remain so should the PSPO be extended.	<p>Welsh Language Promotional Strategy</p> <p>Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 Strategy</p>	<p>Support Welsh Language training and look at improving the number of bilingual Environmental Enforcement Officers.</p> <p>Pro-active recruitment of Welsh speakers to undertake the Enforcement Officer role.</p>

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?
<p>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</p>	Positive	Whilst there are no specific impacts on increasing the number/percentage of Welsh Speakers as a result of this proposal, the signs that are used to transmit the details of the Dog Control PSPO to the public in relevant locations are all bilingual and will remain so should the PSPO be extended.	Welsh Language Promotional Strategy Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 Strategy	Support Welsh Language training and look at improving the number of bilingual Environmental Enforcement Officers. Pro-active recruitment of Welsh speakers to undertake the Enforcement Officer role.
<p>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</p>	Neutral	Whilst there are no specific impacts on increasing opportunities to use the Welsh Language as a result of this proposal, the signs that are used to transmit the details of the Dog Control PSPO to the public in relevant locations are	Welsh Language Promotional Strategy Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 Strategy	Support Welsh Language training and look at improving the number of bilingual Environmental Enforcement Officers.

to see an increase in demand over time		all bilingual and will remain so should the PSPO be extended.		Pro-active recruitment of Welsh speakers to undertake the Enforcement Officer role
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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?
<p>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.</p> <p>Consider the rights of Welsh speakers to use Welsh when dealing with the Council and for staff to use Welsh at Work</p>	Positive	Signs that are used to transmit the details of the Dog Control PSPO to the public in relevant locations are all bilingual and will remain so should the PSPO be extended.	Existing signs already installed in respect of those locations which are covered by the current version of the Dog Control PSPOs	Support Welsh Language training and look at improving the number of bilingual Environmental Enforcement Officers. Pro-active recruitment of Welsh speakers to undertake the Enforcement Officer role
<p>Treating the Welsh language, no less favourably than the English language</p>	Neutral	Signs that are used to transmit the details of the Dog Control PSPO to the public in relevant locations are all bilingual and will remain so should the PSPO be extended.	Existing signs already installed in respect of those locations which are covered by the current version of the Dog Control PSPOs	Support Welsh Language training and look at improving the number of bilingual Environmental Enforcement Officers.

Pro-active recruitment of Welsh speakers to undertake the Enforcement Officer role

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?
Support Welsh Language training and look at improving the number of bilingual Environmental Enforcement Officers. Look at positive recruitment e.g. targeting Welsh job sites, Welsh classes	Ongoing	Director of Frontline Services

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?
Guaranteeing Welsh speaking staff in order to be able to engage in the language choice of the members of the public, including any communication with regards to issuing of fines	Current staffing structure of service need to improve Welsh language skills / capacity before implementation.

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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.

Welsh Language Services Comments	Date Considered	Brief description of any amendments made following Welsh Language Services feedback
Welsh Language Services advise you to explore the options available to the targeted recruitment of Welsh speakers. Welsh Language Services advise you to ensure that that the process of issuing fines, from beginning to end, including any challenge to any payments etc. is available in both languages.		
Officer Review Panel Comments	Date Considered	Brief description of any amendments made following Officer Review Panel considerations
TO BE COMPLETED POST CONSULTATION EXERCISE		

Consultation Comments	Date Considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consultation
TO BE COMPLETED POST CONSULTATION EXERCISE		

Stage 5 – Monitoring, Evaluating and Reviewing

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

TO BE COMPLETED POST CONSULTATION EXERCISE

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 -

TO BE COMPLETED POST CONSULTATION EXERCISE

Stage 7 – Sign Off

Name of Officer completing the WLIA		Service Director Name:	
Position		I recommend that the proposal: (Highlight decision)	Is implemented with no amendments
			Is implemented taking into account the mitigating actions outlined
			Is rejected due to disproportionate negative impacts on the Welsh language
Signature		Service Director Signature	
Date		Date	