

Welsh Language Scheme

Purpose:

Council is asked to approve the draft General Optical Council Welsh Language Scheme and to authorise a full consultation to be undertaken.

Summary:

As a public body we are required by the Welsh Assembly Government, under the Welsh Language Act 1993, to prepare a Welsh Language Scheme. A draft General Optical Council Welsh Language Scheme is attached – **Annex 1**.

The Scheme has been prepared in consultation with the Welsh Language Board and is designed to satisfy the requirements of the Act. In preparing the draft Scheme the Executive has sought to fulfil these in a pragmatic and proportionate way, consistent with the nature of the GOC's work and its resources.

We are currently developing detailed costings for the implementation of the Scheme's action plan. In line with our approach we believe they will be minimal and can be accommodated within the current budget proposal for 2009/10.

If Council approves the Scheme we will run a consultation between 8 and 13 weeks. The Scheme will be published in Welsh and English as one document. We will meet the WLB requirements for consultation by ensuring the notices are inserted in newspapers circulated in Wales and will be bilingual in a form prescribed by the Board. We will also be sending draft copies to the list of consultees that are provided by the Board. These consultees include those whose interests lie in a particular service or profession as well as Welsh language interest groups. The consultation will be on our own website and on that of the WLB.

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