

To:	Board
Date of Meeting:	30 September 2010
Item:	Paper (10) 66

Title:	LSB Welsh Language Scheme
Workstream(s):	Governance
Introduced by:	Julie Myers, Corporate Director julie.myers@legalservicesboard.org.uk / 020 7271 0059
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Status:	Unclassified

Summary:
<p>This paper summarises the responses to the Welsh Language Scheme Consultation and our response to them.</p> <p>As a result of consultation, a small number of changes were made to the Scheme, a draft of which was agreed by the Board on 24 March. These changes have been agreed by the Welsh Language Board. Following Board agreement, the Scheme will be translated into Welsh and re-submitted to the Welsh Language Board for final approval.</p>

Risks and mitigations	
Financial:	N/A.
FoIA:	Annex A and B – s22 (intended for future publication).
Legal:	N/A.
Reputational:	The Welsh Language Scheme is not seen to address the needs of Welsh speakers appropriately or does not treat the English and Welsh languages on a basis of equality, so far as is both appropriate in the circumstances and reasonably practicable. To mitigate, the commitments that we make in the Welsh Language Scheme should be seen as proportionate to the role and scope of the LSB and a clear rationale can be provided for each paragraph if necessary. The consultation process provided an opportunity for these issues to be raised and addressed. The rationale for any changes are stated in the Consultation Report.
Resource:	N/A.

Consultation	Yes	No	Who / why?
Board Members:	✓		Barbara Saunders (prior to consultation).
Consumer Panel:	✓		Prior to agreement to consult.
Others:	This paper is presented post-public consultation.		

Recommendation(s):

The Board is invited to agree:

- (1) the publication of the response to consultation document (**Annex A**); and
- (2) the submission of the Welsh Language Scheme (**Annex B**) for final approval to the Welsh Language Board.

LEGAL SERVICES BOARD

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LSB Welsh Language Scheme Executive Summary

Recommendation(s)

The Board is invited to agree:

- (1) the publication of the response to consultation document (**Annex A**); and
- (2) the submission of the Welsh Language Scheme (**Annex B**) for final approval to the Welsh Language Board.

Background / context

1. Under Section 7 of the Welsh Language Act 1993 ('**the Act**'), public bodies are required to adopt the principle that in the conduct of public business and the administration of justice in Wales, they will treat the English and Welsh languages on a basis of equality, so far as is both appropriate in the circumstances and reasonably practicable.
2. The Act also makes provisions for the preparation and approval of Welsh Language Schemes which public bodies must issue and which must specify the measures that they propose to take in connection with the provision of their services in Welsh.
3. LSB's draft Welsh Language Scheme underwent a 12 week public consultation. The attached response to consultation document (**Annex A**) summarises the responses that were received and the subsequent changes made to the final Scheme.

Chosen approach

4. Due to the scope of our activity and the fact that we do not deal directly with the public, we proposed that we take a proportionate approach to our use of Welsh in the provision of our services. This was supported by the respondees.
5. This will mainly manifest itself via the website (paragraph 4.9 of the Scheme) and through the provision of Welsh or bi-lingual versions of some, or some aspects, of our publications. Criteria have been devised for use when considering whether a document needs to be translated. Following consultation, two enhancements have been made to the criteria and a paragraph added in section 3.5 to clarify this further.

Implementation

6. Along with the Scheme, we were required to produce and consult on an action plan outlining how we will meet the commitments made.

7. When it has been implemented, progress against our action plan will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Welsh Language Board. Roles and responsibilities in this process are outlined in the Scheme.
8. A desk-top guidance document will be produced for colleagues outlining their role in meeting the commitments made in the Scheme. This will be available when the Scheme is published and colleagues will be briefed at the team meeting immediately after publication.
9. The Welsh Language Board has reviewed this revised version of the Scheme and has agreed the changes

Implementation timetable

Activity	Due Date
Board approve final Welsh Language Scheme and Consultation Report	30 September 2010
Final Scheme and Consultation Report translated into Welsh	14 October 2010
Final Scheme and Consultation Report approved (Welsh and English Versions) by Welsh Language Board	29 October 2010
Final Scheme and Consultation Report published on LSB Website	1 November 2010

08.09.10