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Contact:/Cysylltwch â: Lynda Healy

Ms. Tamsin Davies  
Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg  
Ystafell 5  
Y Cambria  
Rhodfa'r Môr  
Aberystwyth  
SY23 2AZ

Dear Ms. Davies

**Re: Planning (Wales) Bill 2014**

Thank you for your letter to the Leader Councillor Hedley McCarthy regarding the Planning (Wales) Bill 2014. Your comments in respect of its impact upon the Welsh language are noted. However, the Bill is wide ranging in its implications for the planning system and its impact on our work will not become clear until subordinate legislation and updated national policy/guidance is put in place by Welsh Government. It would be inappropriate to attempt to interpret the provisions of the Bill to which you refer until this new subordinate legislation is in place.

Under the existing legislation the LDP considered the Welsh Language and if it was part of the social fabric of Blaenau Gwent. At this time we looked at the number and percentage of the population aged 3 and over that were able to speak Welsh. With an overall percentage of 9.49%, the second lowest percentage in Wales, and the highest ward level of 11.7% the Council concluded that the Welsh Language was not an issue for the Borough. It was considered that there was no need for a specific LDP policy on Welsh language as the aim of protecting and enhancing the culture and heritage of the area could be secured through other policies in the Plan. In terms of the evidence to be collected in future, as already stated, this will depend upon updated national policy/guidance on this issue.

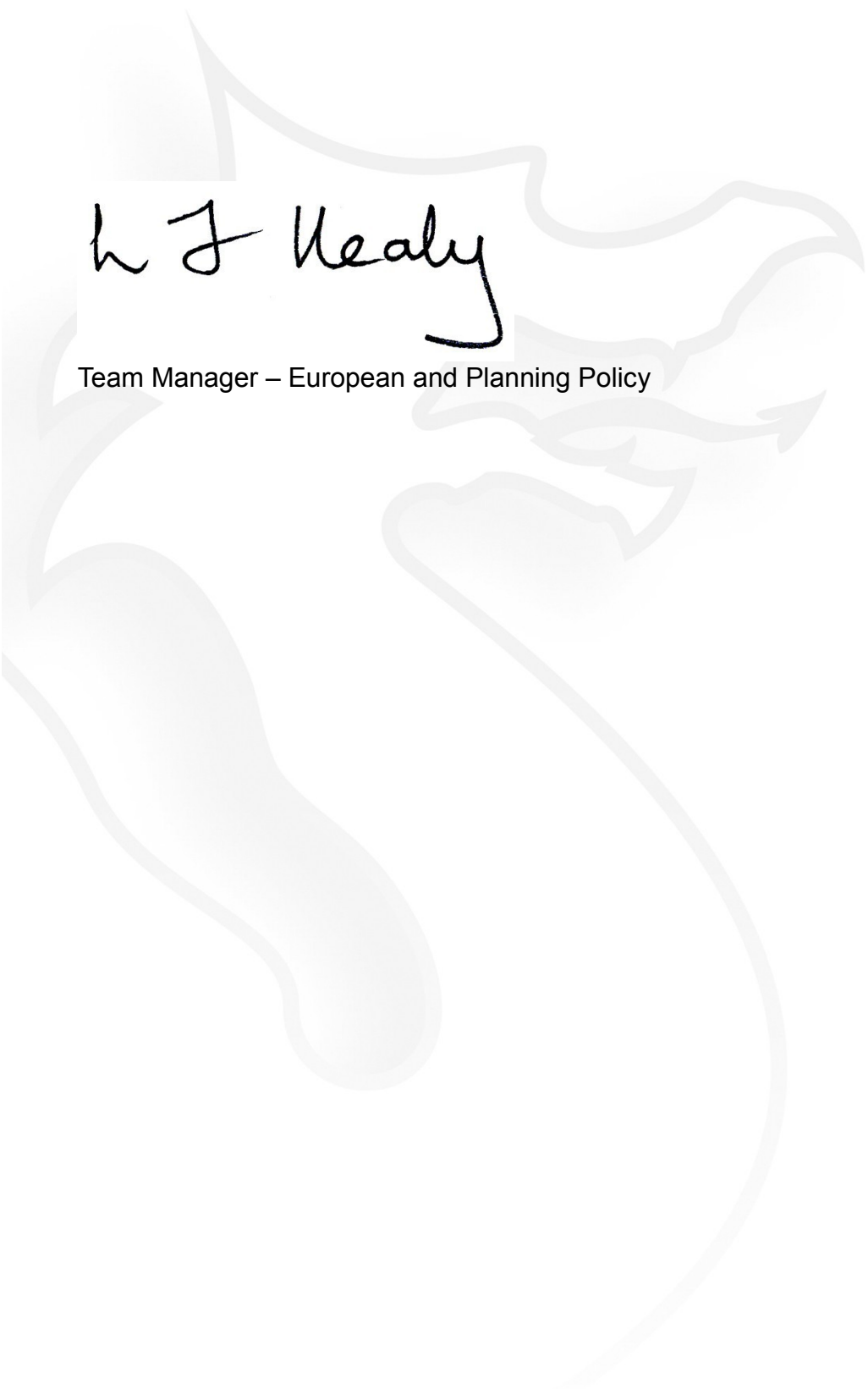
In terms of the development plan, the 4 year review of the Blaenau Gwent LDP will be triggered in November 2016. Welsh Government has advised us that we will need to consider the Welsh language as part of this review. It is anticipated that this will be undertaken as part of the sustainability appraisal for the Plan. By this time further guidance should be available to enable us to undertake a rigorous assessment.

I trust that this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



We welcome correspondence in the medium of Welsh or English. / Croesawn ohebiaith trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg.



*h J Healy*

Team Manager – European and Planning Policy

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