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Leader of Council

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Your Ref / Ein cyf:

Date / Dyddiad 30th July 2015

Tamsin Davies
Cadeirydd Grŵp Cymunedau Cynaliadwy
Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg
Ystafell 5
Y Cambria
Rhodfa'r Môr
Aberystwyth
SY23 2AZ

Dear Ms Davies

The Welsh language has been considered as part of the overall assessment process in the preparation of the LDP. In this respect the adopted LDP complies with the guidance contained within Planning Policy Wales including in its consideration of identifying whether Bridgend County Borough has communities where the use of the Welsh language is part of its social fabric.

Given the relatively low percentage of Welsh speakers across all communities within the area, it was not considered that the Plan's major development proposals would materially affect the linguistic balance of the area to the detriment of Welsh language use. This consideration together with the soundness of other background evidence determining the strategic direction of the Plan was endorsed by the Planning Inspector as part of the LDP Examination process.

The 2011 Census percentage of Welsh speakers in Bridgend County Borough is 9.7% and no area exceeds 13.3% (when considered at the Lower Super Output Area), this represents the 4th lowest in Wales.

In accordance with the requirements of TAN20 and the new Planning Bill, the Local Planning Authority will continue to monitor the situation and to consider any changes in the background socio-economic and linguistic characteristics of its communities. Such monitoring will determine whether there is significant change that would warrant this issue being considered as more of a material consideration in the determination of any future planning applications including the consideration of whether a major development would have a detrimental effect on any future community, where the Welsh language is demonstrated as being part of its social fabric.

Similarly in terms of a review of the adopted LDP, the Local Planning Authority will also continually monitor all of the Plan's policies and objectives together with the underlying socio-economic and linguistic background of its population and communities, to determine whether the plan is being successfully implemented or whether it is failing in its objectives. Depending on such evidence this may justify an early review of the Plan. In this respect the first Annual Monitoring Report of the LDP is due to be submitted to Welsh Government in October 2015.

The Local Planning Authority will also be mindful of any future changes to Planning Policy Wales and Welsh Government Guidance that emanates as a result of the Planning Bill and respond accordingly.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mel Nott', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cllr MEJ Nott OBE JP
Leader
Bridgend County Borough Council