

AGENDA ITEM 59

**FAIRNESS COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION
BDA CHARTER FOR BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE**

CLARIFICATION TO THE REPORT

Officer technical amendment to the report:

The Chair of the Neighbourhoods, Communities & Equalities Committee will note that there is an officer's technical clarification to the report's recommendation 2.1 and financial implications paragraph wording in paragraph 8.1. This requires the deletion of first recommendation 2.1 and its replacement of a new recommendation and the deletion of paragraph 8.1 and its replacement with a new paragraph 8.1 as detailed below.

The resultant changes follow additional information received from the British Deaf Association (BDA), whereby the BSL Charter has changed in the following ways:

- that the pledges have been re-jigged and are now listed in a different order
- that there are more detailed objectives and benefits;
- the process has been changed to include the signing of a working partnership agreement and
- a scale of, optional, costs has been introduced

The BDA states that the changes are a result of it seeking to be more inclusive in securing local and national services across the UK to sign up to the BSL Charter.

It is therefore proposed to:

Delete the following:

Recommendation

- 2.1 That Committee, on behalf of the council, sign up to the BSL Charter and work with the British Deaf Association and local Deaf and BSL groups towards fulfilling the requirements of one or more of the pledges under the charter as set out below;

Financial Implications

- 8.1 There are no immediate financial implications arising from signing the BSL Charter. Any resource implications identified during the self-assessment and three year planning stage will be reported to relevant committee for decision. Liaising with the BDA, completing the self-assessment and developing the action plan will be delivered within the resources of the Communities, Equalities and Third Sector (CETS) service.

Revised Recommendation 2.1 and paragraph 8.1 to read:

2.1 “That committee agrees that the council will sign up to pledges 2, 3 and 5 as outlined in appendix 1 of the committee report;”

8.1 “As a result of new information provided by the BDA week commencing 6th March 2017 there are immediate financial implications arising from signing the charter. These are in regard to the signing ceremony and the development of the action plan; estimated to be £350 for 2017/18, £1,100 for 2018/19 and £300 for 2019/20 based on the pricing structure provide by the BDA. These costs will need to be met from the Communities, Equality and Third Sector team budget. Should further work with the BDA and the Working Partnership Agreement have financial implications over and above those manageable with existing budget a report will be brought back to this committee and PRG committee if required.”

Additional information:

As a result of the introduction of a scale of optional costs by the BDA the Communities, Equality and Third Sector team has estimated the expenditure that would be required over the next 3 years of working towards the pledges. This is shown in the table below and takes into account resources within the council and also the commission of deaf engagement work through the council’s communities and third sector commission 2017-2020.

Estimate of likely BHCC Spend over 2-3 year period					
2017/18		2018/19		2019/2020	
Signing up ceremony	£300	Implementation 2 hours consultancy	£100	Awards ceremony	£300
Action planning 1 hour consultancy	£50	Monitoring & review basic tasks	£1,000	-	-
Total	£350		£1,100		£300

Deaf people in Britain campaigned for many years for the recognition of BSL considering this to be a human rights issue.

This campaign was for the right to positively identify with one’s language(s), and for others to respect this identification. It asked for BSL to be recognised as a native indigenous language and for Deaf people to have the right to learn it, to develop in formal school settings by being taught through it and to have the right to use it in official contexts (schools, hospitals, police services, naming of children, religion). On 18th March 2003, the British Government recognised BSL as a language in its own right and as an indigenous language used in the UK.

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