

## Stage 1 – Focus Group Engagement Stakeholder List

1.	All CCBC Schools
2.	All CCBC Service Areas
3.	Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
4.	Caerphilly Business Club
5.	Caerphilly Youth Service
6.	Careers Wales
7.	Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol
8.	Coleg Gwent
9.	Coleg y Cymoedd
10.	Councillors
11.	Cymraeg i Blant
12.	Destination Services
13.	Early Years
14.	Education Achievement Service
15.	Education Service
16.	Gwent Police
17.	Gwent Welsh for Adults
18.	Helo Blod
19.	Leisure and Parks Services
20.	Menter Iaith Caerffili
21.	Mudiad Meithrin
22.	Parent Network
23.	Public Services Board
24.	Supporting People
25.	Town and Community Councils
26.	University of South Wales
27.	Voluntary Sector – GAVO
28.	Yr Urdd

# Caerphilly County Borough Council Five Year Welsh Language Strategy 2020-24

## Notes of Stakeholder Focus Groups

### Respondent views

The responses from the focus group discussions highlighted a number of amendments to be made to the draft action plan prior to formal public consultation.

### **Focus Group 1& 3**

#### **Strategic Area 1 – The Family & Strategic Area 2 – Children and Young People**

#### **What key stakeholders think we should do:**

- Need to do a childcare provision audit – Welsh in Education Strategic Plan
- Audit of services, opportunities currently being offered by partner organisations and council service areas
- Libraries will look at provision of Cymraeg i Blant sessions
- Be specific around timescales against each action and which partner organisations are involved in each
- Add University of South Wales to the list of partner organisations
- Coleg y Cymoedd provide opportunities for Welsh speaking students whether they are course related or non-course related and make them aware of Welsh medium activities, courses and job opportunities
- Link up with universities and further education colleges to retain and develop the Welsh language skills of students – end goal
- Include volunteering in Action 2.6
- Family Information Service are moving to DEWIS – all partners are linked.
- Develop a web page with links to all the partner organisations so that information about each one is easily accessible.
- Include on the web page links to useful resources i.e. podcasts, case studies, resources
- In Libraries we use Borrow Books which is an all Wales platform of book and digital stories for people to access Welsh medium content
- Develop Welsh Language Champions – use or link up with Community Connectors or the Parent Champions that already exist
- Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol also has champions – link in with the organisation
- Revise wording of Action 2.11 to include linking up with language champions and ambassadors of the Siarter Iaith and Cymraeg i Blant, also links with the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan
- To promote positive messages about the Welsh language to years 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 working regionally with different partners, using case studies and creating podcasts with the further education colleges

- Focus on specific projects and who is going to be responsible for leading and delivering on them
- A clear and simple career path for young people to see what choices they have is very important

## **Focus Group 2**

### **Strategic Area - 3 The Community**

#### **What key stakeholders think we should do:**

- Any staff working in the childcare sector will be made aware of the Hyder project run by Menter Iaith Caerffili and the Road to Bilingualism – link up
- Almost all posts when recruiting ask for Welsh language skills as desirable
- Need to undertake a Welsh language skills audit of the workforce to understand capacity and recruit based on need and meeting the requirements
- Demand for Welsh language services is low but people need to know the services are there to request/access them in Welsh
- Could start by setting a standard that at all meetings a bilingual greeting must be given just to keep the Welsh language in everybody's minds
- Recruitment challenges in general
- There is a requirement across all council services to recruit Welsh speaking staff
- Need an audit and a Language Skills Strategy – Year 1 of the strategy would be undertaking the Welsh language skills audit and building on that
- Training and Induction sessions are needed for staff which includes Welsh language awareness
- Make new employees aware of the Welsh language and the requirements to comply to the Standards
- Need Welsh language training which is tailored to meet the requirements of the role
- Need to transform the current situation with Welsh language awareness sessions, induction process, the Council to convey a clearer message of its commitment to the Welsh language so that everyone is aware
- Raise awareness of managers of their duty to raise Welsh language skills within their teams/areas
- Staff with Welsh language skills are afraid to declare and panic about the expectations
- Need to look at job descriptions – bilingual and clearly state Welsh language skills requirements/levels
- Gwent Public Services Board to make a commitment to the Welsh language – level of commitment

## Focus Group 4

### Strategic Area 4 – Welsh Language Services, Strategic Area 5 – The Workplace & Strategic Area 6 – Infrastructure (Policies and Practices)

#### What key stakeholders think we should do:

- Difficult for staff working in health at the moment to wear lanyards to show language skills due to Covid pandemic and infection control
- Need to undertake an audit of Welsh language skills within local doctor surgeries
- Sometimes people don't wear badges or lanyards because they do not feel confident with their language skills
- Need to work jointly with partner organisations to wear badges and lanyards where possible – a promotional campaign which can be used across different sectors which can also look at assessing skills levels
- A possible project could be to create a digital directory of organisations and businesses available through the medium of Welsh and place it on DEWIS. Aneurin Bevan UHB have already started an audit and Menter Iaith Caerffili published a directory some years ago which needs updating
- Possibly looking at a capital grant project to rejuvenate Rhymney Library and look at stock of Welsh language books and provision at the library as part of the project
- Menter Iaith Caerffili are keen to work closer with libraries to develop activities within these locations
- Aneurin Bevan UHB and Gwent Police will look at how they can have a presence at Ffilifest and an opportunity to promote positive messages about working through the medium of Welsh. Look at how Council services can also get involved
- Aneurin Bevan UHB – need to look at developing a Linguistic Skills Strategy and then undertake the audit of Welsh language skills capacity of the workforce
- Need to merge Action 3.2 and 3.7
- There are courses for refugees available teaching them Welsh – need to promote this with the families we are involved with
- What about holding a Fresher's Week for non-Welsh speaking parents who send their children to Welsh medium schools? Could use videos to introduce each organisation, opportunities available to them, courses so they can learn Welsh, resources and support
- Need to look at little project which complement the actions in the Five Year Strategy, More Than Just Words Strategy and the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

## Formal Consultation Survey



## Draft Welsh Language Strategy 2022-2027 Action Plan

### Stage 2 Consultation

Caerphilly Council is required to develop a Five Year Welsh Language Strategy in accordance with the requirements of Welsh Language Standard 145 under the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015. The aim of the strategy is to set out actions on how we intend to promote the Welsh language, increase the number of Welsh speakers and the use of Welsh in the county borough.

The Welsh Government recently announced its new **Work Programme for Cymraeg 2050** <https://gov.wales/cymraeg-2050-our-plan-2021-2026>. The national strategy aims to reach one million Welsh speakers by 2050 and double daily use of the Welsh language by 2050. In order to realise the vision, Cymraeg 2050 is based on three strategic themes:

1. Increasing the number of Welsh speakers
2. Increasing the use of Welsh
3. Creating favourable conditions - infrastructure and context

Following recent focus groups with key partner organisations, we now wish to conduct a stage 2 consultation to seek your views on the set of draft actions set out in the draft action plan. To view the draft plan please click here (**LINK**).

The survey will only take a few minutes to complete and the closing date is Friday XX November 2021.

Once all the responses have been collated we will use the responses to identify if there are any actions that require revision or any new actions that should be included. The strategy will be approved by 31 March 2022.

**How we use your personal information:** The information you provide will be used by the service area relevant to the consultation / survey within Caerphilly County Borough Council. Views expressed will be collated together and used to produce a summary report. Depending on scope / nature of the survey / consultation, the summary report will be used to evaluate and remodel services / priorities etc. We will not keep your views in a way that will identify you for longer than is necessary.

You have a number of rights in relation to the information we hold about you, including the right of access to your information and the right of complaint if you are unhappy with the way your information is processed. For further information on how we process the information and your rights please follow this link:

<https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/FOI/PrivacyNotices/Privacy-Notice-Consultations-Surveys.aspx>

## **Welsh Language Strategy 2022-2027 - Strategic Areas**

There are 6 strategic areas within the document. To achieve the outcomes within each of these areas, a number of actions have been proposed. We would like to know if these actions are the right ones and if you have any ideas about what else we could do to achieve these outcomes.

### **The Family**

Outcome: Increase in the number of families where the Welsh language is spoken with children.

### **Children and Young People**

Outcome: Children and young people increasingly speak Welsh as part of their everyday routine, improve potential career prospects and realise the value of the language.

### **Communities**

Outcome: Community groups and businesses are aware of, and can access Welsh language services across many different sectors.

### **Welsh Language Services**

Outcomes:

- More Welsh medium services available to the public.
- More use made of the services that are available through the Welsh language.
- Welsh language support groups are included in directories of community and voluntary groups.
- The Welsh language integrated in collaboration arrangements.

### **The Workplace**

Outcome: An increasing number/percentage of the workforce uses the Welsh language in the workplace.

### **Infrastructure (Policies and Practices)**

Outcome: The Welsh language integrated appropriately into strategies, policies and practices of the Council and partner organisations.

**1. Do you agree or disagree that the actions outlined within each strategic area will help meet the intended outcome?**

	Agree	Disagree	Don't Know
The Family	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Children and Young People	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Welsh Language Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Workplace	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Infrastructure (Policies and Practices)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**2. If you disagree with any of the actions outlined, please give details below:**

**3. If there are any additional actions you feel should be included, please tell us which Strategic Area these refer to and give details below:**

**4. We would like to know your views on the impact that this draft action plan would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English. What impacts do you think there would be? How could positive impacts be increased, or negative impacts be mitigated?**

**5. Please also explain how you believe the draft action plan could be formulated or changed so as to have positive impacts or increased positive impacts on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, and no adverse impacts on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.**

**6. Has your response to this consultation been influenced either positively or negatively because of any of the following: age, disability, ethnic origin, gender, gender reassignment, marital status, religious belief or non-belief, use of BSL or other languages, nationality or responsibility for any dependents? If so, please give details below.**

**7. Do you have any further comments to make about the draft Welsh Language Strategy?**

## Something About You

*These questions are optional. Your response will help us to ensure that we achieve a representative sample and will help us to check whether the services we provide are meeting the needs of all of our local communities and residents.*

**I am responding to this survey as: (Please select only one.)**

<input type="checkbox"/>	As a resident of Caerphilly County Borough Council
<input type="checkbox"/>	As a local elected member
<input type="checkbox"/>	As a business person
<input type="checkbox"/>	Representing a third sector group or organisation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Representing another public sector organisation
<input type="checkbox"/>	As a member of staff
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other, please write in _____

**My postcode is:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I am:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Female	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other, please write in _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say

**What is your preferred language?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	English	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other, please write in _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Welsh	<input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say

**Do you consider yourself to have a disability?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say
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**Are you or a member of your household currently serving in the armed forces or an armed forces service leaver?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, I am / was a member of the armed forces
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, a member of my household is / was a member of the armed forces
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say

**Age groups**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<16	<input type="checkbox"/>	40-49
<input type="checkbox"/>	16-25	<input type="checkbox"/>	50-65
<input type="checkbox"/>	26-39	<input type="checkbox"/>	66+

### Sexual orientation

<input type="checkbox"/>	Bisexual
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gay
<input type="checkbox"/>	Heterosexual
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lesbian
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other, please write in _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say

### Religion or belief

<input type="checkbox"/>	Buddhist
<input type="checkbox"/>	Christian (all denominations)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hindu
<input type="checkbox"/>	Humanist
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jewish
<input type="checkbox"/>	Muslim
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sikh
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other, please write in _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say

### Ethnic origin

<input type="checkbox"/>	Asian	<input type="checkbox"/>	White
<input type="checkbox"/>	Black	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other, please write in _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed		

### Marital status

<input type="checkbox"/>	Civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	Single
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dissolved civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	Surviving civil partnership
<input type="checkbox"/>	Divorced	<input type="checkbox"/>	Widowed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Living with partner	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other, please write in _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Married	<input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say
<input type="checkbox"/>	Separated		

## Annexe 4: Digest of written responses to the Draft Welsh Language Strategy 2022 – 2027 survey

*Note: Comment have been redacted to protect anonymity of respondents and to remove offensive language.*

**If you disagree with any of the actions outlined, please give details below:**

All of them I Don't speak Welsh
As far as I am concerned trying to promote the Welsh language is a waste of time and money. Policy is being dictated by a minority of Welsh speaker activists to the detriment of the vast majority of Welsh people - you don't have to speak Welsh to be proud of your country and heritage.
Children and young people: outlined strategy does not appear to be significantly different to current strategy. The workplace: outlined strategy does not indicate monitoring methodology within workplaces and whilst I want an increase in use in the Language, the strategy does not indicate funding support, especially for very small businesses.
No mention of opening more Welsh-medium schools and the lack of specific recruitment of Welsh speakers to the council. Encouraging instead of enforcement means that many companies will not use Welsh.
Funding should be for music & the arts, maths & science, digital education. Complete waste of money which will have little impact on job creation, wealth, people ability to have well paid work, lifting family's out of poverty.
I am not in favour of councils or any government organisations spending precious resources to promote the Welsh language. There are many more important issues to be addressed. As far as I'm concerned a minority is dictating to the majority. Waste of time and money.
I am Welsh but I think learning about our heritage is more important than the language. If I wanted my daughter to learn Welsh I would have sent her to a Welsh medium school. I think the language is being forced on people. Money could be better spent on other areas.
I believe some of the actions outlined create a two tier society, where those with Welsh Language skills have unfair opportunities over non Welsh speakers
I believe that the use of the Welsh language is detrimental to the well-being of the majority of people living in Wales, particularly for the development of young people. The resources spent could be put to better use. For example more science and other subjects, would make our children more employable outside Wales and would be of more benefit to them. Also traffic signs would be easier for the majority to understand if in English only. English on top means that most of us pass the signs before we have had time to read the English. Put the well being of the majority before the desires of the minority.
I don't disagree as such, as any efforts to support and promote the Welsh language are to be applauded, but I think more consideration needs to be given to how some of these actions can be realistically achieved. Communities - Whilst there are some good intentions in this strategic priority, such as improving Welsh language input and provision during big events such as the Big Cheese, Christmas markets, etc., for any of this to work there needs to be a huge amount of awareness raising for people to even know that they can use Welsh within the borough and that this won't in itself prove to be a barrier. Welsh Language Services - The number of complaints relating to non-compliance doesn't mean much if people don't even know what compliance is required; how will they know if it's not being upheld? The annual report on compliance with the Welsh language standards must be more prominent, and more widely promoted - perhaps an infographic version, or slimmed down version for the public facing website? Welsh speakers in particular are interested in this stuff.
Infrastructure - This is a vitally important area which underpins all of the other functions of the Council. Sadly, Welsh is often seen as an "add-on" when considering new areas of work or when reviewing policies and procedures. It <i>*must*</i> become part of the initial planning process for any project, not just in terms of making it bilingual, but in terms of how it can meaningfully support the Welsh language.

I don't understand the questions
Large parts of the Borough are predominately English speaking with a very small number of Welsh speakers. Families and workplaces in these areas will never become Welsh speaking.
Need to engage with new parents earlier (e.g. baby pack with newborns) as many are put off Welsh medium education fearing they will not be able to help their child. No amount of promotion will help attract new Welsh speakers if they don't have an interest in the first place. You need to promote earlier e.g. baby groups/play groups etc. People can be put off from interacting with Welsh events such as Ffilifest due to previous bad experiences, fear of not fitting in/undersanding and being 'looked down on' because of either unable to speak Welsh or are learners.
No disagreement. Enthusiasm should come from bottom up not top down. Understand that enthusiasm must be engendered in the first place to facilitate that end. Making things compulsory maybe not generally good except where strategically advantageous to the 5 year deadline. CCBC net is spread impressively wide.
Not enough over 18's currently speak Welsh in every day life
People will continue to use their first language in the home and at work and it is well known that use of Welsh by school children stops at the school gate or when they are out of hearing of their teachers. Nothing in the strategy seems likely to change this.
Pushing the use of Welsh ahead of English will cause the Welsh economy to fall even further behind England, leading to further loss of talent across the border and increased unemployment.
Too much Welsh being promoted at the moment. English is the first language in the UK and should take precedence over Welsh. Road signs in particular should be English first, save money by only printing communications in English as there are no polyglot Welsh speakers in Wales.
Too much Welsh already in a predominantly English speaking area. Total waste of public resources.
Unrealistic targets for the timescale.
Welsh Language has been made a political media, and South East Wales it is not used money and resource could be spent on many other community improvements Education standards could be raised concentrating on the important subjects for future benefits

**If there are any additional actions you feel should be included, please tell us which Strategic Area these refer to and give details below:**

2. Children and young people is very comprehensive but it seems geared to what Council Corporate can do, not what Education itself can do. Early years is an area undergoing considerable transformation, so there maybe opportunities here to expand. Welsh Government for example could visit older pupils to tell them about opportunities to work in the medium of Welsh in terms of career guidance, although it maybe covered 2.3
5. The workplace could include more informal opportunities such as 'lunch time cafe' or Welsh speaking 'meet for lunch, after work, or social opportunities to encourage a fun, informal aspect as much of it will be about 'compliance' to the standards, so something that suggests its fun could be more motivational than the message of 'you have too'.
All areas
Children and young people. There should be greater emphasis on Welsh History matters in the way History is delivered in Schools. We've seen that the way British history traditionally is taught that it needs and is being
revisited to perhaps look differently at the way Colonialism and actions in the past have adversely affected many minority groups.
Creation of areas in communities where use of Welsh is encouraged and a range of levels is present to support learners.
Ensure that all actions are voluntary and people DO NOT feel forced into complying to a hard line of forcing this beautiful language onto all Welsh citizens.. 'ENGLISH NOT'
I don't see anything to help learners of the Welsh language to be confident in speaking and putting their learning to use.

<p>revisited to perhaps look differently at the way Colonialism and actions in the past have adversely affected many minority groups.</p>
<p>In my experience of learning Welsh most of the effort is given to the "Iaith Achlysurol" "CasualWelsh." Literary Welsh is less emphasised (so is English these days). This kind of thing seems good:  <a href="https://www.amazon.co.uk/HARRY-POTTER-WELSH-Potter-Athronydd/dp/B00K9J2W0E">https://www.amazon.co.uk/HARRY-POTTER-WELSH-Potter-Athronydd/dp/B00K9J2W0E</a>  A reprint of CYMRAEG I DDYSGWYR may be a good idea. For me it helped bridge the gap between everyday casual Welsh and literary Welsh from the outset. It gives more of a feel for the basic structure of the language than the usual (but vital) speech patterns taught on early learner courses. CCBC may wish to liaise with other areas e.g. the excellent facility at the University of South Wales e.g. <a href="https://learnwelsh.cymru/news/ask-helen/">https://learnwelsh.cymru/news/ask-helen/</a>  Helen Prosser</p>
<p>Many public notices should be in English only eg road signs and road work notices as mixing is very dangerous and costly  Also government documentation a choice should be offered and Stop waste</p>
<p>Needs to be easier for people to understand</p>
<p>None. Coleg y Cymoedd will be able to contribute to achievement of the action plan.</p>
<p>Not sure I saw anything in the mass of information about the possibility of Welsh being taught in the workplace specifically around the vocabulary needed for the job in hand and any public facing roles.</p>
<p>Children: Open more Welsh-medium schools to normalise Welsh-medium education. There is currently one county-wide secondary school.</p>
<p>Should there be something about promoting the use of Welsh in customer services in the private sector e.g. through the Business Forum? Do local businesses advertise that they can interact with customers through Welsh, are local shops highlighting that they have Welsh speaking staff for example.</p>
<p>Spend funds on further education and skill coaching/apprenticeships instead</p>
<p>Stand up to Welsh government &amp; don't implement any plan. Use the money to support education, business &amp; transport. All in desperate need of investment.</p>
<p>Stop spending money on promoting the Welsh language.  Where does Carbon net zero fit in when the small number of children being forced into Welsh speaking schools are bussed in from miles away - not good stewardship of the public purse or resources. I have seven grand children on the Cwm Calon estate. My daughters moved onto the estate some years ago and were told at the time the primary school would be English speaking. Due to intervention by Welsh speaking activists the school was belatedly designated as a Welsh school. Not impressed!</p>
<p>Stop this nonsense and concentrate on providing a good education, health, welfare and care system.</p>
<p>There should be a statement of the extra cost to Welsh residents.</p>
<p>Welsh is a dying language and very limited to a small number of clique teachers who are promoting the language for their own ends . it sad but a fact once a young person leaves education once they have left school unless their family and friend are Welsh speaking they speak and write Welsh less and less each year. I am English and have lived here for over 33 years .I on the whole find Welsh speakers full of themselves and a pain in the arse. Wanting translation when they are capable of reading and writing in English. the fact is I then have to employ at great</p>
<p>cost a Welsh speaker to translate their written or spoken words this is detrimental to my profits and I therefore do not engage much with snobby two faced Welsh speakers. Just stop funding it and admit defeat. The money would be better spent on mental health. As suicidal relative has waited 8 months for an appointment and it not even face to face.</p>
<p>Welsh Language Services - a dedicated web page for all things Welsh language would be helpful. This could include news items, links to strategic documents, events, or opportunities for people to get involved in supporting and promoting the Welsh language within the borough</p>
<p>With regards to parent and baby groups, for example, Welsh should be introduced little and often rather than a Welsh /English language group exclusively, so parents get used to Welsh in small doses and don't get overwhelmed or intimidated. Parents should be offered Welsh lessons in small groups as evening classes rather than large groups to build confidence learning and speaking Welsh.</p>

**We would like to know your views on the impact that this draft action plan would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh languag...**

<p>A perennial problem is non use of Welsh after pupils leave Welsh education. People often lose the language. School leavers need to be encouraged to support initiatives after school/university to help young pupils and learners and keep their own Welsh alive</p>
<p>Anything which aims to support and promote the Welsh language can hopefully only have a positive impact on language skills and use within the borough. My main concern is the implementation of the action plan on an ongoing basis. It takes a lot of effort and work to continue to promote, support and include Welsh in a region that is traditionally less Welsh-speaking.</p>
<p>As a dyslexic person bilingual forms/signs are absolutely impossible to read. To the point it's discriminatory to people with this disability.</p>
<p>The language will be more visible but that does not mean that it can be used further in public life if those working with the public do not speak the language.</p>
<p>Drop promotion of actions that will be internationally divisive.</p>
<p>Encourage more people to wear the Iaith Gwaith badges to indicate to others that they are able to speak Welsh. Encourage businesses with Welsh speakers to greet people in Welsh</p>
<p>English medium schools will be neglected and receive less funding</p>
<p>Hopefully more people will learn the language and use it! Making groups for practice speaking readily available will help learners of all levels, not having confidence to speak is probably one of the biggest problems for learners. I know I am a learner.</p>
<p>Hopefully it will give people the confidence to use Welsh in a wider range of situations. We also hope that they will always be positively received even if the person spoken to cannot speak Welsh</p>
<p>I don't understand some of these words.</p>
<p>It will antagonise and alienate more people against Welsh.</p>
<p>It will be good for more people to learn the Welsh language and it be used a lot more.</p>
<p>It will hopefully increase places where Welsh is spoken maintain the language for many who learnt it in school and normalise its usage within the community.</p>
<p>Little impact, the majority of Caerphilly residents would not be interested in the Welsh Language Strategy.</p>
<p>More people in the communities being aware of the opportunities to learn and use Welsh as well as English</p>
<p>Not everyone finds learning a second language easy. Heritage more important than speaking the language. If we wanted our children to learn it we would have sent them to a Welsh medium school.</p>
<p>Pushing Welsh language will lead to a further increase in nationalism, calls for independence and severely impact the Welsh economy.</p>
<p>See above</p>
<p>The action plan is very good, comprehensive and if able to be delivered will make a difference and will help to expand the language. However some impacts for those who do not speak Welsh could be to feel threatened or limited opportunities in the job market for not speaking Welsh, so important to bring those who do not speak Welsh in, in a way that is encouraging and not 'compliance'.</p>
<p>The main negative effect is overemphasis on use of Welsh annoying English speakers and causing a reaction against the language. This is particularly true when Welsh appears first in documents and, where it is not possible for the two languages to appear side by side (and assist translation in cases of uncertainty, English should be the first language encountered to avoid irritating scrolling through the document (I speak, read and write Welsh, but have chosen to complete this questionnaire in English and would not have done so had I needed to wade through the Welsh version first).</p>
<p>The overall draft plan is a costly time waste of money</p>

<p>There are many people in Wales who still believe that Welsh is a waste of time instead of seeing it as part of their heritage. It would be good to find a way to teach these people the importance of the language and how special it is to be able to speak their national language.</p>
<p>There is always a danger of alienating public if certain demographic see Welsh as being prioritised. Unfortunately comments such as "Dead language" and "waste of money" are all too common. The strategy will help but care needs to be taken to bring the public with you, particularly in an area not renowned for use of Welsh language. A soft roll out would likely mitigate these comments but the risk would be failure to meet the aggressive (but welcome) language targets set by WG.</p>
<p>This action would have a positive impact on opportunities to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.</p>
<p>to print everything twice in English and Welsh is such a waste of money.</p>
<p>Why do you feel the need to keep flogging a dead horse. If Welsh was a viable modern language it would thrive without imposing it on the majority of the Welsh population who have no interest in learning Welsh.</p>
<p>Wouldn't know haven't read it. Anyway It's too late. you've made your minds up. Sorry unless you make it compulsory for everyone to learn and speak Welsh not just kids you will always have people like myself wanting to speak English read and write English and the Welsh speaker. Will rub the English up the wrong way not understanding what they have done wrong. The impact area greater divide between those who can speak Welsh and those who cannot. If Welsh speakers get more funding then non Welsh speakers will think it unfair and vice versa. In other words you're stuffed. Treat everyone equally then there will be nothing for either side to complain about, but the Welsh speaker will complain as they will think they deserve more.</p>
<p>By following the action plan, Caerphilly County Borough Council will ensure more opportunities for people to use their Welsh. By demonstrating clear and strong leadership for the Welsh language when working on joint projects with partner organisations, the positive effects of the strategy could be increased.</p>
<p>You cannot rewrite history, what happened during the industrialisation of Wales, was a massive influx of people from rural South West England, where my own family on both sides came from, coupled with the English dominated Victorian education system, almost wiping out the language in this area. This doesn't make me feel any less Welsh, or proud of coming from the South Wales Valleys, but the obsession with speaking Welsh does.</p>

**Please also explain how you believe the draft action plan could be formulated or changed so as to have positive impacts or increased positive impacts on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language....**

<p>As it's the first action plan, I think it's difficult to know what will or won't work until it's implemented. I would, however, suggest that the action plan should be flexible, and should changes be needed, these can be made during the life of the current strategy, rather than waiting for the review.</p>
<p>Can you not get it ??? It's too hard. It's a difficult language to learn unfortunately it has not evolved with the times. For example the microwave or poppety ping is just sad. Get rid of the guttural sound and people may have a chance of at least getting to say the words correctly. If it did sound like vomiting it may be a lot more attractive. The French accent is sexy the German commanding the Irish lyrical the Welsh is somewhat alluring but then I spit some words out unfortunately it just not woke enough.</p>
<p>Concentrate on teaching using the English Language, the international language of the world</p>
<p>see above. The response to those seeking to communicate in Welsh is vital</p>
<p>Has Welsh A level pass yet been recognised as a suitable subject for English universities? It's not always recognised as a suitable qualification for university entry as it's not a foreign language.</p>
<p>Having more free courses available for people.</p>

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I believe there needs to be many opportunities for learners to come together to practice speaking and listening to the Welsh language. Then once they are confident they can use the language in their day to day dealings.
It needs more emphasis on opportunities to learn and use Welsh in a social context.
There are plenty of positive actions in the action plan, you don't want to change or add anything.
Possibly a campaign to show the benefits of having two languages. Heritage family culture business wherever you have originally come from. Maybe highlighting innovative use of Welsh or families that have learned Welsh together or how businesses are using Welsh with customers.
Remove English translations on signs (e.g. place names), then people would learn how to say the Welsh and possibly spark an interest for the language.
Reverse the policy.
See above for helping turn negative to positive
Ensure that Welsh-medium education is readily available and locally. Ensure bilingual staff when providing services so that no Welsh speaker is required.
Stop pushing "Welsh only" schools. Teach it as a second language and allow children to use it if they wish.
There needs to be recognition that this is a long term plan, this will take at least at 10 year's to embed into the culture further. See above.
To start cross working with English and Welsh medium schools so eventually all schools would converse in English & Welsh equally and there will not be the need for Different medium schools with competing priorities. This would mean equal funding.
Use of Welsh should be entirely voluntary and not forced on the majority of non Welsh speakers in this area.
We have been flogging this horse for some decades now, and personally I don't hear an increase in hearing the spoken word around the Borough, we are what we are and should be celebrating our diversity not pushing an elitist agenda.
Welsh is being used more locally than previously as we predominately english speaking. Draft gives people more opportunities to learn welsh and hopefully more access to employment that require welsh speakers

**Has your response to this consultation been influenced either positively or negatively because of any of the following: age, disability, ethnic origin, gender, gender reassignment, marital status...**

Answers are not influenced by anything mentioned. Jyst don't believe in wrlsh being forced on us. Leave it to individuals to choose.
As an English speaker, I am being even more discriminated against every day by Welsh minority.
I am of the older generation so when i was in school welsh was not compulsory and was thought of as a dying language but it seems that was not the case therefore it s good that more people will have the opportunity to learn and benefit them
I was born and bred in the Rhymney Valley and I've seen the changes to bilingual forms, signs and signage in theatres, public signs putting Welsh first and English second. I do not agree with this policy.
My answers have been influenced by my own experiences as a Welsh speaker, both in the community and in the workplace.
My influence is determined by my life experience and knowledge
Negative probably due to depleting brain cells and galloping old age
No. Dylanwddyd gan fy ngalluogrwydd yn y Gymraeg (It has been influence by my ability in Welsh)
Possibly positively I have Welsh speaking family members but feel learning other languages is a positive step in helping communication to flow and find similarities rather than differences.

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This is an incredibly broad range of characteristics, that every single person completing this survey will fit into, meaning that everyone will be influenced one way or another by these factors.

Yes welsh speakers are rude to me when I was trying to learn the language.

**Do you have any further comments to make about the draft Welsh Language Strategy 2022-2027 Action Plan?**

A waste of tax payers money

Churches and chapels were formerly the bastion of Welsh language/literature and culture. I believe this positive contribution of religion was largely the theme of Hedd Wyn's famous ode "YrArwr." Society these days has lost that, and is under a massive disadvantage in the aim of bolstering civilisation. The gods of the current age are celebrity (sports and entertainment), Socialmedia, popular music, financial/career ambition. as well as the bottom feeder pastimes which are more the scope of the police than CCBC's current worthy aims. Therefore the objects of worship of today's Welsh society must provide the catchment fields of interest through which to propagate this beautiful old Celtic language. For me the beauty is in the literature rather than the spoken language. Pobl y Cwm is good entertainment but I doubt it does much for the language.

The National and International Eisteddfod are excellent vehicles to promote the language. As things are, I cannot foresee a long life for the Eisteddfod Chair competition. Very few Welsh people have expertise in the awkward Cynghanedd, the captive measures and the vision to sustain that level of culture. Even one of our greatest poets, Hedd Wyn was little understood for his "Yr Arwr" ode until the centenary celebration hosted by Liverpool Welsh. He has been much heralded mainly for the drama around the Black Chair Eisteddfod rather than his ode which even the Eisteddfod adjudicators had difficulty in interpreting. The film "Hedd Wyn" is superb.

Nowadays, we are too narrow as a nation to hold an Eisteddfod in Liverpool as formerly. The Welsh built large parts of the city and contributed massively to it ref, Cymry Lerpwl by D. Ben Rees. His books are a rich source of information on Welsh heritage and many other things. [http://liverpool-welsh.co.uk/books\\_w.htm](http://liverpool-welsh.co.uk/books_w.htm)  
<http://liverpool-welsh.co.uk/learn.htm>

English is my language and to learn a language should be a choice not pushed on me. If I wanted my child to speak Welsh I would of sent her to a Welsh speaking school. I think it's a disgrace that some children can't speak English properly yet more and more time is spent on Welsh in English language schools. Welsh children are behind in school as it is and more time is now wasted on an out of date language.

For me, it's not just about making sure that people can use their Welsh within the borough, it's about making Welsh part of everyday life, and for it to be the norm for it to be heard in shops, cafes, in offices. There's still an "us and them" view of the Welsh language, and we have some way

to go before this changes. The language doesn't need lip service or tick boxes; it needs positive support and action.

Good luck!

Has the Welsh population been asked if they want to see the Welsh language promoted and the costs that come with it?

I don't understand the words on these questions which make it hard for me to comment on any of it.

It would be wonderful if more Welsh was spoken and heard in the Caerphilly area. I am a learner and would love to use the language more.

to go before this changes. The language doesn't need lip service or tick boxes; it needs positive support and action.

It's a waste of precious money and time. Tax payers money should be used more wisely to improve lives of the people of the borough by investing in infrastructure, schools, public and private buildings and the the maintenance and upkeep of previous projects carried out by the council!

Why don't you spend more money on more teachers for smaller class size!! I am Welsh by blood and ancestry, I do not want the Welsh language to die out. I just don't believe in the over promotion of the Welsh language to detriment of the people in receiving value for money. And also in this time of environmental issues the mass duplication of documents and resources being provided without request is harmful to our natural resources, environment and to all people! The choice of documents should be available in either Welsh or English languages upon request! And not frivolous duplicated at waste to environment and tax money!!

Its very comprehensive and an excellent job. However some of the measures need work as they are not necessarily reflective of what you are trying to achieve. For example some qualitative survey type measures as to whether people feel more confident in using Welsh and enjoyed events rather than number would give a broader picture of success.

Prioritise other council services before this Welsh language nonsense.

Scrap it

Scrap it!

Spend the funds on improving education, health and the general state of the borough instead of on fanciful, pointless targets

Total waste of money, will achieve nothing.