



POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – INFORMATION ITEM

SUBJECT: FIVE YEAR WELSH LANGUAGE STRATEGY 2022-2027

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR – EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek the views of the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on the updated Five Year Welsh Language Strategy 2022-2027 as required by Standards 145 and 146 Welsh Language Standards (No1) Regulations 2015, prior to presentation to Cabinet for approval.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Authority is required to develop a 5-year strategy that sets out how it proposes to promote the Welsh language and facilitate the use of the Welsh language in the county borough.
- 2.2 The strategy must include a target for increasing or maintaining the numbers of Welsh speakers and a statement setting out how the target is intended to be reached.
- 2.3 The strategy must be reviewed and revised on a 5-yearly cycle and progress must be reported at the end of each 5 year period. Cabinet determined that they would like an annual update on progress against the strategy and this has been part of each Welsh Language Standards Annual Report to Cabinet since 2017. However it has not been possible to provide an update during the pandemic because we and partner organisations have been focussed on dealing with the pandemic and adapting service delivery which has made collating this information and delivering on the actions very difficult. Progress against the current strategy will be part of the Welsh Language Standards Annual Report 2021-2022 later this year.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 For Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee to provide any comment on the draft Five Year Promotional Strategy prior to its consideration by Cabinet for approval and publication on the Council's website.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The authority is required under the Welsh Language Standards (No1) Regulations 2015 to produce and publish a Five Year Welsh Language Strategy for the county borough in compliance with Standards 145 and 146.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 The Welsh Language Standards require the authority to develop a 5-year Welsh Language Strategy that sets out how it intends to promote the use of the Welsh language, and facilitate the use of the Welsh language more widely in the area. The strategy must include a target (in percentage terms) for increasing or maintaining the number of Welsh speakers in the area by the end of the 5-year period. In addition, the strategy must include a statement setting out how the target will be met. The strategy must be reviewed and renewed at the end of each 5-year period (Standard 145).
- 5.2 At the end of each 5-year period the authority must assess the extent to which the strategy has been followed and the target met. The assessment, which must be published, must include the number of Welsh speakers in the area and the list of activities that have been undertaken to meet the aims of the strategy (Standard 146). Progress against the current strategy will be appended to the Welsh Language Standards Annual Report 2021-2022 later this year.
- 5.3 The appended draft strategy (Appendix A) and associated actions have been developed in conjunction with members of the Caerphilly Welsh Language Forum, key stakeholders and council service areas and schools. The strategy can only be effectively delivered in collaboration with other organisations operating in the area who also have a remit, either through legislation or organisational policy, to increase and support the use of the Welsh language.
- 5.4 The stakeholders involved in the development of the revised Five Year Welsh Language Strategy 2022-2027 include:
- All CCBC Schools
 - All CCBC Service Areas
 - Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
 - Caerphilly Business Club
 - Careers Wales
 - Coleg Gwent
 - Coleg y Cymoedd
 - Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol
 - Councillors
 - Cymraeg i Blant
 - Education Achievement Service
 - Gwent Police
 - Gwent Welsh for Adults
 - Helo Blod

- Menter Iaith Caerffili
- Mudiad Meithrin
- Parent Network
- Public Services Board
- Supporting People
- Town and Community Councils
- University of South Wales
- Voluntary Sector – GAVO
- Yr Urdd

- 5.5 The strategy proposes a target of 4% increase in Welsh speakers over the 5-year period. The target however will be reviewed once we have Census 2021 data available to us, which is expected sometime in 2024. This target is recognised as aspirational and the actions within the document are a direction of travel for the local authority and its key stakeholders. It is set against the backdrop of the draft Welsh Government strategy – Cymraeg 2050 to increase the number of Welsh speakers in Wales to 1 million by 2050.
- 5.6 The strategy is supported by a Welsh Language Profile for Caerphilly county borough 2021 which was developed by Menter Iaith Caerffili. This profile examines the position of the Welsh language in Caerphilly County Borough, the provision for Welsh speakers by a range of organisations and the way in which Welsh speakers in the area are using Welsh in their communities. The profile is appended to the Strategy in Appendix B.
- 5.7 The structure of the document follows 6 strategic areas; The Family, Children and Young People, Communities, Welsh Language Services, The Workplace and Infrastructure (Policies and Practices).
- 5.8 The Council has undertaken a range of evidence gathering and pre-consultation engagement activities to develop a revised set of actions of the draft Five Year Welsh Language Strategy 2022-2027. These actions will enable us to plan how we will promote the Welsh language and facilitate the use of the language locally to increase the Welsh speaking population over the next five years.

Activities include:

- A review of legislative requirements
 - A review of external reports and guidance, including Welsh Government’s **‘Cymraeg 2050: our plan for 2021 to 2026’**, and the Welsh Language Commissioner’s guidance **‘Standards relating to promoting the Welsh Language’**
 - A review of the Council’s current Five Year Welsh Language Strategy 2017-2022
 - An analysis of local and national datasets
 - Engagement with service delivery managers within the Council
 - Engagement with Caerphilly Welsh Language Forum and Welsh in Education Forum
- 5.9 Progress against the actions set out in the strategy will be monitored by the Welsh Language Forum, in partnership with the local authority. The 2021 Census will be the next official measure of the number of Welsh speakers in the area.
- 5.10 **Conclusion**
The implementation of the Five Year Welsh Language Strategy 2022-2027 ensures the Council is meeting its legal obligation under Standards 145 and 146 of the Welsh

Language Standards (No1) Regulations 2015. The actions contained within the strategy will enable the Council, in partnership with key stakeholders, to promote the Welsh language and facilitate its use in the county borough for the next five years.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 No assumptions have been made in preparing this report.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 The Welsh Language (No.1) Regulations were issued to Caerphilly County Borough Council in 2016 under Section 44 of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. In line with the Council's Welsh Language Standards Compliance Notice, specifically Standard 145, the Council must produce and publish a 5 Year Welsh Language Strategy that sets out how the council will promote the Welsh language and facilitate the use of the Welsh language more widely in the county borough. The Strategy must then be reviewed and a revised version published within 5 years of publishing a strategy.

The strategy is a high level document and the action plan contained within the document clearly demonstrates the Council's commitment to promote the Welsh language, facilitate the use of the Welsh language and increase the number of Welsh speakers in the county borough by working in partnership. The first 5 Year Welsh Language Strategy was published in 2017 and this strategy is a revised version of that strategy building on the priorities for promoting and developing the Welsh language across Caerphilly county borough.

The strategy was developed in consultation and engagement with key stakeholders (see list in Annexe 1) and to deliver on the actions relies heavily on key partnership working. The current economic climate is challenging and will impact on the delivery of this strategy, and the strategy cannot be delivered by one organisation alone. Therefore working in partnership with existing partners and forging new opportunities to work in partnership with new organisations from all sectors is vital. It is recognised by all existing partners that the success of the strategy relies very much on working together with all sectors of the community.

There are no negative impacts relating to this strategy. All positive impacts have been recorded in the section above. It is important now that all the Council's service areas take on board the actions in the strategy and work together alongside key stakeholders to ensure all citizens can use and engage with the Welsh language naturally every day, and which must be supported and nurtured for generations to come to use and enjoy too.

[Link to Integrated Impact Assessment](#)

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no direct financial implications in this report. The actions within the strategy are intended to be achieved in partnership. Where actions fall wholly, or partly, within the responsibility of the local authority it is intended that they will be met within existing budgets.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no personnel implications arising directly from this report. Some actions in the strategy relate to People Services and we will work together to ensure that these actions are met.

10. CONSULTATIONS

- 10.1 The Council has undertaken a range of evidence gathering and pre-consultation engagement activities to develop a revised set of actions of the draft Five Year Welsh Language Strategy 2022-2027.
- 10.2 Virtual stakeholder focus groups were held during September which were then followed by a five week public consultation exercise.
- 10.3 Responses from all engagement and consultation exercises have been incorporated into actions within the Strategy. Appendix C is the Engagement Report which includes a list of all the actions amended or developed as a result of the responses received.
- 10.4 This report has been sent to the Consultees listed below and all comments received are reflected in this report.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011
The Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015
The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

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Cllr James Pritchard – Deputy Leader and Equalities Champion
Cllr Eluned Stenner – Cabinet Member for Performance, Economy and Enterprise
Cllr Gez Kirby – Chair of Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee
Cllr Brenda Miles – Deputy Chair of Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee
Sue Richards – Head of Education Planning and Strategy
Robert Tranter – Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Lynne Donovan – Head of People Services
Kathryn Peters – Service Improvement and Partnerships Manager
Jeff Reynolds – Sports and Leisure Facilities Manager
Jared Lougher – Sports and Leisure Development Manager
Mike Headington – Green Spaces and Transport Services Manager
Antony Bolter – Visitor Economy and Destinations Manager
Robert Keep – Caerphilly Adventures Team Leader

Michael Owen – General Manager Cwmcarn Forest Drive
Paul Hudson – Business Enterprise Renewal Team Leader
Martin Cook – Visitor Services Manager
Lesley Edwards – General Manager Llancaiach Fawr
Marina Newth – Theatre and Arts Service Manager
Paul O’Neill – Senior Youth Service Manager
Carol A Davies – Service Manager Children’s Services
Viv Daye – Service Manager Adult Services
Rebecca Boulton – Families First Team Manager
Sarah Mutch – Early Years Manager
Neil Cooksley – Principal HR Officer – Workforce Development

Background Papers:

- Compliance Notice – Section 44 Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011
- Welsh Language Commissioner Guidance – [Standards relating to promoting the Welsh Language](#)

Appendices:

Appendix A - Five Year Welsh Language Promotional Strategy 2022-2027

Appendix B - Menter Iaith Caerffili – Welsh Language Profile of Caerphilly County Borough 2021

Appendix C - Engagement Report Five Year Welsh Language Promotional Strategy 2022-2027