

To: Chair and Members of the Welsh  
Language Steering Committee

Date: 7 July 2021

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Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **WELSH LANGUAGE STEERING COMMITTEE** to be held at **10.00 am** on **TUESDAY, 13 JULY 2021** in **BY VIDEO CONFERENCE**.

Yours sincerely

G Williams  
Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services

## **AGENDA**

### **1 APOLOGIES**

### **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Pages 3 - 4)**

Members to declare any personal or prejudicial interests in any business to be conducted at this meeting.

### **3 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

To appoint a Chair of the Committee for the current municipal year.

### **4 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR**

To appoint a Vice Chair of the Committee for the current municipal year.

### **5 URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR**

Notice of items which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency pursuant to Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972.

### **6 MINUTES (Pages 5 - 12)**

To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Welsh Language Steering Committee held on 16 March 2021 (copy enclosed).

**7 WELSH LANGUAGE JOURNEY IN THE COUNCIL**

To receive a presentation from the Public Relations & Communications Officer about their Welsh language journey in Denbighshire County Council.

**8 WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN (Pages 13 - 16)**

To receive a report by the Principal Manager - Modernising Education, to update the committee on the Education Strategic Plan (copy enclosed).

**9 WELSH LANGUAGE STRATEGY (Pages 17 - 20)**

To receive an update on the proposed timetable for developing the Welsh Language Strategy (copy enclosed).

**10 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 21 - 22)**

To consider the Committee's forward work programme (copy attached).

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Councillors**

Ellie Chard  
Ann Davies  
Tony Flynn  
Huw Hilditch-Roberts  
Arwel Roberts

Anton Sampson  
Graham Timms  
Joe Welch  
Emrys Wynne

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## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000

### Code of Conduct for Members

### DISCLOSURE AND REGISTRATION OF INTERESTS

I, *(name)*

a \*member/co-opted member of

*(\*please delete as appropriate)*

**Denbighshire County Council**

**CONFIRM** that I have declared a **\*personal / personal and prejudicial** interest not previously declared in accordance with the provisions of Part III of the Council's Code of Conduct for Members, in respect of the following:-

*(\*please delete as appropriate)*

Date of Disclosure:

Committee *(please specify)*:

Agenda Item No.

Subject Matter:

Nature of Interest:

*(See the note below)\**

Signed

Date

\*Note: Please provide sufficient detail e.g. 'I am the owner of land adjacent to the application for planning permission made by Mr Jones', or 'My husband / wife is an employee of the company which has made an application for financial assistance'.

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## WELSH LANGUAGE STEERING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Welsh Language Steering Committee held by video conference on Tuesday, 16 March 2021 at 10.00 am.

### PRESENT

Councillors Ellie Chard, Ann Davies, Huw Hilditch-Roberts, Arwel Roberts, Graham Timms (Chair), Joe Welch and Emrys Wynne (Vice Chair)

**Observer** – Councillor Meirick Davies

### ALSO PRESENT

Corporate Director Communities (NS); Welsh Language Officer (MC) and Committee Administrators (KEJ & SLW)

### WELCOME / POINT OF NOTICE

The Chair welcomed to the meeting Ruth Williams, Chief Officer Menter Iaith Sir Ddinbych who was in attendance to deliver a presentation on the work of Menter Iaith.

Due to the current restrictions on travel and requirement for social distancing as a result of the coronavirus pandemic the meeting was held remotely by video conference and was not open to the general public. All members had been given the opportunity to attend as observers and the Local Democracy Reporter had also been invited to observe.

#### 1 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

#### 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

As trustees of Menter Iaith Sir Ddinbych, Councillors Meirick Davies, Arwel Roberts and Emrys Wynne declared a personal interest in agenda item 5 Menter Iaith.

#### 3 URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

No urgent matters had been raised.

#### 4 MINUTES

The minutes of the Welsh Language Steering Committee held on 10 November 2020 were submitted.

**Accuracy** – Councillor Emrys Wynne highlighted that the Welsh minutes referred to 12 November 2019 rather than 10 November 2020.

**Matters Arising** – Councillor Meirick Davies advised that the Chair and Vice Chair had not been identified on the agenda in line with usual practice.

**RESOLVED** that, subject to the above, the minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 November 2020 be received and approved as a correct record.

## 5 MENTER IAITH

Councillor Huw Hilditch-Roberts introduced Ruth Williams, Chief Officer of Menter Iaith Sir Ddinbych who had been invited to the meeting to provide an overview of the work of Menter Iaith. A web link to Menter Iaith Sir Ddinbych's Annual Report 2019 – 2020 had been previously circulated with the agenda for the meeting which provided a comprehensive overview of activities in 2019/20.

The Chief Officer delivered a power point presentation on Menter Iaith Sir Ddinbych which was one of 22 Welsh language enterprises working in Wales to increase and strengthen the use of the Welsh language within communities. The organisation provided a one stop shop for the language and organised festivals, childcare, language sessions and more helping people to live, learn and enjoy Welsh.

The presentation included reference to the following –

- the structure of Menter Iaith (directors, trustees and staff) which was a registered charity recently awarded the Trusted Charity Mark from NCVO
- how Menter Iaith was strategically placed to help deliver Welsh Government's vision for one million Welsh speakers by 2050 and how it was funded
- main targets and strategic themes to increase the use of Welsh together with other key strategies including Denbighshire's Welsh Language Strategy and Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and work with other partners and sectors
- delivery within Denbighshire's Welsh language strategic themes (1) Strategic Planning of the Welsh Language in Denbighshire, (2) Children & Young People, (3) Community, and (4) Business & Economy, and details of the wealth of activities/events undertaken in that regard illustrated by photographs, media etc.
- reported upon funding streams open to Menter Iaith as a registered charity including grants from Welsh Government and Denbighshire County Council together with support for activities and projects from other sources
- links to Menter Iaith social media pages were also provided together with contact details for the organisation.

The Chair thanked the Chief Officer for her interesting and informative presentation. It was agreed that the presentation be circulated to members following the meeting.

Members took the opportunity to comment and discuss various aspects of the work of Menter Iaith with the Chief Officer. Main discussion points covered the following –

- Councillor Ann Davies was concerned that enough was being done to support and encourage students from Welsh medium secondary schools attending Coleg Cambria to continue speaking Welsh. The Chief Officer explained that the Coleg had their own officers responsible for ensuring that Welsh was available in line with their Welsh language standards, however if members wished to raise any issues in that regard she could refer them back to Coleg Cambria. As a partner, Menter Iaith tended to work with Coleg Cambria in the

context of Welsh language classes for adult provision, but occasionally held joint activities or events. Whilst not responsible for education Menter Iaith worked with the education sector as part of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan to maintain an overview. In response to a further question on the take up of activities by Rhyl youngsters, the Chief Officer advised that at least 90% of pupils in Welsh medium schools were from non-Welsh speaking homes with the majority of pupils learning the language through schools. Menter Iaith did work with some schools but could not undertake more projects without additional funding for more staff. Parents often contacted Menter Iaith for support and advice about how to use Welsh in the home

- Councillor Emrys Wynne referred to the success of Menter Iaith in increasing the use of the Welsh language, particularly in providing opportunities for young people to enjoy the language outside of educational establishments, and congratulated Menter Iaith in that regard. He also highlighted the importance of adequate funding being made available to continue that work in the future and encouraged the local authority to provide the best support possible. It was also important to consider both North and South of the county and whilst the percentage of Welsh speakers in Rhyl was low, the numbers were very high
- Councillor Meirick Davies also thanked staff for the work undertaken and the practical provision in place and was keen to hear more about the work with Coleg Cambria. The Chief Officer reiterated references within her presentation and work with officers responsible for the Welsh language in Coleg Cambria. She emphasised the importance of recognising and understanding the advantages of using Welsh and being bilingual when preparing young people for the workplace, particularly in sectors such as childcare, and those advantages were also constantly marketed to employers and businesses
- the Chair had been interested to hear about the business connections and highlighted the importance of using Welsh in shops, cafes etc. and questioned whether more could be done to encourage that. The Chief Officer acknowledged the importance of supporting businesses and agreed that more Welsh needed to be heard and seen on the street and in places such as shops and libraries etc. on a daily basis to normalise the use of Welsh and increase confidence in the language. In terms of the high street Menter Iaith worked in eight main towns in Denbighshire but due to the small team employed could only reach a small percentage of businesses. She reported upon the use of bilingual signage and promotion of the free translation service of up to 500 words a month but a greater drive was needed. She suggested the Council's Economic Development Officers could start a conversation with businesses asking whether they had thought about the benefits of bilingualism, highlighting that there was no disadvantage to any business operating bilingually or additional costs if planned from the beginning. Other initiatives could include having a condition for using Welsh language when giving grants; advertising posts only in Welsh and designating Welsh essential posts for front line services; the possibility of training or coaching those less confident in the language, and the potential for bespoke courses for business groups.

In bringing the discussion to a close the Chair thanked the Chief Officer for her attendance and the information shared with the committee.

**RESOLVED** that the presentation on the work of Menter Iaith be received.

[At this point (11.07 am) the meeting adjourned for a ten minute break.]

## **6 DEVELOPMENTS WITH THE WELSH LANGUAGE REGIONALLY AND NATIONALLY**

Councillor Huw Hilditch-Roberts introduced the item detailing ongoing progress of Welsh language activities which had also been discussed at the previous meeting. The Corporate Director Communities added that the aim was to embed those activities into the core business of the council with a view to continual improvement.

The Welsh Language Officer elaborated upon particular areas of the report which included developments in a number of key areas and also noted the impact of Covid-19 on progress delivery with particular reference to the following –

- **‘Mwy Na Geiriau’ / ‘More Than Just Words’** a summary was provided on progress made with the following actions –
  - ◆ continue to inform internal staff and commissioned services of the ‘Active Offer’ and promotion of the orange speech bubble sticker as an easy indication of language choice on paperwork and take up of care providers
  - ◆ increase the use of Welsh by the social care workforce in Denbighshire and promote the use of digital resources and on-line Welsh language courses developed by ‘Cymraeg Gwaith’
  - ◆ demonstrate commitment to embedding the Welsh language within each service area in Community Support Service / Children’s Services
  - ◆ additional work in promoting and facilitating the use of Welsh
- **Welsh in Education Strategic Plan** – construction of Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd and the Welsh Language Centre at St. Asaph were completed. Cylch Meithrin provision was opened on the grounds of the new school in Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd and Ysgol Dewi Sant. The impact of Covid-19 on curriculum enrichment activities and Urdd Eisteddfod was also noted. There was a pattern of increasing numbers in Welsh medium secondary education
- **Welsh Language Linguistic Skills Survey** – details of the self-assessment of staff’s Welsh language skills were provided which included a breakdown of the results per service ranging from Level 0 (no knowledge) to Level 5. The survey would not be carried out for the current year as little change was expected although there may be a reduction in the levels due to staff home working as a result of Covid-19 and therefore not hearing and speaking Welsh in the office
- **Update on Welsh Language Partnership – Partner Iaith** – Covid-19 had delayed the mapping of Welsh language activities across the county at present. The Welsh Language Commissioner’s Officer had been invited to discuss how Covid-19 had affected the Welsh language nationally as well as any good practice. The schools categories consultation according to Welsh medium provision was also discussed with the Modernising Education Officer. Work on social media campaigns to collaborate on national celebrations were ongoing.

In closing the Welsh Language Officer advised that whilst Covid-19 had interrupted plans there was still plenty of good work going on and more innovative ways to achieve outcomes.

Councillor Hilditch-Roberts highlighted the continued hard work to improve the Welsh language in very difficult circumstances and thanked the Welsh Language Officer and the team for all their work in that regard. Whilst there was evidence gathered over the last three years of the increase in Welsh spoken in the county there were still improvements to be made and he considered all had a part to play in that regard. He also referred to the difficult financial climate which restricted the amount of funding available for other initiatives, such as providing further support to businesses. Finally he made reference to the challenges for pupils in Welsh medium schools from non-Welsh speaking homes when learning remotely.

The following issues were raised during the ensuring discussion –

- there was some debate regarding the effect of the pandemic on those children educated in Welsh medium schools who were from non-Welsh speaking homes and members were keen to see no reduction in those numbers or in the transition of pupils from KS2 to KS3 as a consequence. Councillor Hilditch-Roberts confirmed a few pupils had been lost from Welsh medium schools as a result but steps had been taken to provide parental support in particular schools together with mentoring, and in some cases measures had been tailored to specific pupils who had been identified as struggling with the language during lockdown. Primary school pupils had since returned to school and speaking Welsh again, therefore it was less of an issue. It was agreed that building back the confidence of those children and speaking Welsh in the school environment was a priority and it would be regrettable if the effects of the lockdown led to a fall in the numbers of children benefitting from a Welsh medium education
- Councillor Emrys Wynne referred to the assessment of staff's Welsh language skills and levels ranging from 0 – 1 and was keen to set a target to remove level 0 following the pandemic and provide more training and support to enable staff to progress quicker through those levels. He highlighted level 3 as a key turning point for Welsh learners, having progressed through the most challenging stages, and he was aware of the good progress being made by an increasing number of staff. Other members also highlighted the positive efforts made by staff in speaking and responding in Welsh at various levels and stressed the importance for all councillors to take the lead, particularly at council meetings
- the importance of providing support for local businesses as discussed under the previous agenda item was reiterated and the role of the Planning Department was mentioned in raising the issue of bilingual signage for new businesses and also to encourage the use of Welsh when advertising.

The Chair highlighted the importance of being proud of what was being achieved but also to continue challenging to ensure continual improvement and he thanked the Welsh Language Officer for the comprehensive report.

***RESOLVED*** that the work being undertaken in Denbighshire be approved.

## **7 ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE THE WELSH LANGUAGE**

Councillor Huw Hilditch-Roberts introduced the report (previously circulated) updating members on the Welsh language promotional activity since the last meeting and outline plans for the year ahead.

The Welsh Language Officer delivered a power point presentation elaborating upon a number of those activities which included –

- **Staff Eisteddfod** – the Council held its third Eisteddfod between 15 February and 1 March as part of St. David's Day celebrations. Due to Covid-19 it was held digitally via the private staff facebook with various categories for staff to compete and staff voting for the winners. The digital Eisteddfod proved very successful with 163 entries and over 700 votes cast
- **St David's Day** – the staff Eisteddfod was the main event to celebrate St. David's Day but information was also shared on social media about St. David's history, relevant useful Welsh vocabulary and phonetics to help Welsh learners together with interesting facts about the national symbols leeks and daffodils
- **Paned a Sgwrs** – as most staff were now working from home the sessions had been held digitally and after a good start numbers had declined in recent months. This had been due to the need for a screen break over lunchtime when the session was held. The session time had since changed to 9.00 am and numbers had risen again in recent weeks and staff feedback had been positive
- **St Dwynwen's Day** – a quiz was created about the history of St. Dwynwen as part of the celebrations this year which was shared internally and externally on social media with over 30 people taking part. A document of relevant Welsh vocabulary and phonetics was created for Welsh learners and a word search
- **Welsh language music day (Dydd Miwsig Cymru)** – a playlist of Welsh songs was created to share with staff and the promotion of a new song for 'Nerth dy ben' campaign, 'Byw l'r awr' (Live for the hour) to remind each other of our strengths and courage. It showed the positive effect of music on mental health. Most of the artists in the music video were former Ysgol Glan Clwyd pupils
- **Promotion of the Welsh language standards** – documents/checklist had been created to promote Welsh language standards to share on Denbighshire Today, LINC, visiontime and staff facebook page and ensure compliance with standards
- **Vocabulary for meetings** – to encourage the use of Welsh in meetings, including starting and finishing in Welsh, a useful vocabulary had been created shared on facebook together with recordings to hear the pronunciations
- **Pancake Day** – a useful vocabulary of terms had been created for staff
- **Next steps: Proposed timetable of activity for 2021** – a table of planned activities each month throughout 2021 had been provided for consideration and further elaborated upon at the meeting.

At the close of the presentation the Corporate Director Communities paid tribute to the excellent work undertaken by the Welsh Language Officer in extremely difficult circumstances providing a range of engaging activities for staff in order to promote the Welsh language. Those sentiments were echoed by the committee who thanked the Welsh Language Officer for all her hard work in that regard.

Members discussed various issues arising from the report in more detail –

- Councillor Arwel Roberts suggested a press article be produced on the excellent work undertaken to promote the Welsh language for inclusion in the local Welsh newspapers, such as Papyr Bro. The Welsh Language Officer agreed and also considered it a good way of promoting the council's social media channels
- the Welsh Language Officer responded to questions regarding staff induction confirming reference was made to the Welsh language standards as part of that process for new staff and that all staff were required to complete an e-module on Welsh language awareness which also included a section on the Welsh language standards together with the Welsh Language Commissioner and Welsh language strategy, so all the necessary information was made available
- the Chair asked that a link to the Welsh vocabulary for meetings be shared with the chairs of all committees to encourage the use of Welsh in council meetings
- Councillor Emrys Wynne asked that consideration be given to reviewing the situation in Denbighshire with regard to Welsh names given to topographical places and dwellings to ensure the Welsh language element was maintained. It was agreed that Councillor Wynne complete a member proposal form on that topic for submission to the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs' Group to determine how that matter should be progressed.

**RESOLVED** that the activity during 2020 be noted and the proposal for the 2021 promotional activity be approved.

## 8 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The committee's forward work programme was presented for consideration and members raised the following matters –

- there was some discussion about progress with the Welsh Language Strategy 2022 – 27 and potential investment in that regard and it was confirmed that the intention was to submit a draft document to the committee for consideration prior to submission to Cabinet in February/March 2022
- it was agreed that an update on Eisteddfod yr Urdd be confirmed as an item for November but in the event of any developments before then the update be brought forward for consideration to the July meeting; it was also agreed that an update on the National Eisteddfod be submitted to a future meeting of the committee at the appropriate time as more information became available
- following a suggestion by Councillor Huw Hilditch-Roberts it was agreed to invite some staff members to a future meeting to talk to the committee first-hand about how the council had supported them on their Welsh language journey.

**RESOLVED** that, subject to the above, the Committee's Forward Work Programme be received and noted.

The meeting concluded at 12.25 p.m.

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|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>Report to</b>             | Welsh Language Steering Committee             |
| <b>Date of meeting</b>       | 13 <sup>th</sup> of July 2021                 |
| <b>Lead Member / Officer</b> | Cllr Huw Hilditch- Roberts                    |
| <b>Report author</b>         | Geraint Davies                                |
| <b>Title</b>                 | Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022 - 2032 |

## 1. What is the report about?

This report contains information regarding the new Welsh in Education Strategic Plan which is currently being developed.

## 2. What is the reason for making this report?

To update Members on the new Welsh in Education Strategic Plan will set out how Welsh will be developed in all our schools over the next 10 years.

## 3. What are the Recommendations?

To note the requirement to create a new 10 year Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and the target set for Denbighshire.

## 4. Report details

4.1. It is a statutory requirement for all Local Authorities in Wales to have a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. The new plan which is currently being developed will cover 10 years up until 2032.

4.2. Every new Welsh in Education Strategic Plan will follow the same guidance and will be arranged around seven outcomes. The outcomes reflect a learner's education journey and are consistent with the policy areas of Cymraeg 2050 and Education in Wales: Our National mission.

Outcome 1: More nursery children/ three year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh

Outcome 2: More reception class children/ five year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh

Outcome 3: More children continue to improve their Welsh language skills when transferring from one stage of their statutory education to another

Outcome 4: More learners study for assessed qualifications in Welsh (as a subject) and subjects through the medium of Welsh

Outcome 5: More opportunities for learners to use Welsh in different contexts in school

Outcome 6: An increase in the provision of Welsh-medium education for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) in accordance with the duties imposed by the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018

Outcome 7: Increase the number of teaching staff able to teach Welsh (as a subject) and teach through the medium of Welsh

4.3. Each Local Authority have been set a target by Welsh Government to increase the number of year 1 pupils receiving Welsh medium education. The lower target for Denbighshire has been set at 35% and the upper target is 39%. As of 2020, 28% of year 1 pupils in Denbighshire access Welsh medium education.

4.4. The new plan will set out how Denbighshire will meet this target and support all seven outcomes. A consultation on the new plan will take place in the autumn of 2021 with the final plan submitted to Welsh Government in January 2022.

## **5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?**

The new plan contributes to the development of the Welsh Language and culture, which underpins the Council's Corporate Plan.

## **6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**

There is no specific funding allocation currently linked to the delivery of the plan. Existing funding streams will be utilised by the Council and its partners to deliver the objectives

## **7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?**

The new Welsh in Education Strategic Plan has the potential to have a positive impact on a Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language, cohesive communities, a more equal Denbighshire and a more prosperous Denbighshire.

## **8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?**

Consultation has been carried out with the Lead Member for Education, Children Services and the Welsh Language.

## **9. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**

The main risk associated with the new plan is a lack of action by stakeholders in implementing its objectives. All partner organisations have committed to contributing towards the development of the Welsh language nationally and towards the million speakers target set by the Welsh Government by 2050.

## **10. Power to make the decision**

The new Welsh in Education Strategic Plan will be approved by the Welsh Government to comply with the provisions in relation to the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESP) in the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 ('the Act') and regulations made under it.

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|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Report to</b>             | Welsh Language Steering Committee                |
| <b>Date of meeting</b>       | 13 July 2021                                     |
| <b>Lead Member / Officer</b> | Councillor Huw Hilditch-Roberts/ Nicola Stubbins |
| <b>Report author</b>         | Manon Celyn, Welsh Language Officer              |
| <b>Title</b>                 | Welsh Language Strategy                          |

## 1. What is the report about?

This report is about developing a new Welsh Language Strategy for Denbighshire.

## 2. What is the reason for making this report?

To update on proposed timetable for developing the new strategy.

## 3. What are the Recommendations?

To approve the approach and associated timetable associated with the strategy.

## 4. Report details

4.1 The Welsh Language Measure (Wales) 2011 has enabled the Government to set standards relating to the Welsh Language and the Welsh Government expected all local authorities to adopt a Welsh Language Strategy, as part of their response to the Standards.

4.2 The current strategy, adopted by Denbighshire's Cabinet in March 2017, outlines the approach towards promoting the Welsh Language and facilitating its use within the county and there is an expectancy of the Council to revise its strategy, five years on from publication date. The new strategy is due in March 2022.

### 4.3 The current Welsh Language Strategy includes a Vision:

- Denbighshire is a predominantly bilingual county with a rich culture and heritage. We are proud of this and want this pride to be reflected in our day to day interaction with communities, with residents and with our staff.
- We are committed to ensuring that the principles of the Welsh Language Standards underpin the way we deliver services to the public; we want people to be able to access services through the language of their choice naturally, at all stages of their lives.
- We want to enhance the bilingual culture and ethos of the organisation, providing training and social opportunities for our staff to work in Welsh and increase their confidence in using the language in the workplace.

- We want to work with partners and the wider communities to ensure that Welsh is a thriving language in Denbighshire.
- We have an ambition to be sector leaders in the development of the Welsh Language in Wales.

#### **4.4 Current themes:**

- Theme 1 looks at how Denbighshire works with its key partners involved in delivering the Welsh language across the county and how they can work more strategically and planning their activities in a more co-ordinated manner.
- Theme 2 looks at increasing the number of pupils becoming fluent in the Welsh Language during their school life and encouraging greater use of the language in future life. We are also looking at improving opportunities for children and young people in social settings through working with our Youth and Leisure services.
- Theme 3 looks at issues affecting communities in relation to the Welsh Language, with a key focus on the impact of policy decisions. A key focus is being placed on local planning issues and the 'More Than Words' Framework to enhance bilingual services in health and social care.
- Theme 4 looks at how Denbighshire and its economy development partners should recognise the importance of a thriving economy to the future of the Welsh Language and ensuring that strategies are in place to ensure opportunities for young people to stay in the local community.
- Theme 5 looks at how the Council can enhance the Welsh language through providing training to staff and enhancing the bilingual ethos of the authority through promotion of the Welsh Language.

#### **4.5 Next steps:**

- 4.5.1 An initial research phase will begin shortly where the Council looks at example of best practice, looks at the demographic information it has access to and looks at the success of the previous strategy.
- 4.5.2 There will be discussions with Members and with the Senior Leadership Team on the current priority areas and whether they need to be amended or enhanced in the new strategy.
- 4.5.3 Following a period of drafting the strategy, the Council will begin on a period of internal and external consultation and engagement before a final report is drafted, ready for discussion at Cabinet.

#### 4.6 Proposed timetable

| <b>ACTION</b>  | <b>BY WHEN</b>              |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Initial research   | March 2021                  |
| Discussions/ workshops with the Welsh Language Steering Committee and Senior Leadership Team on the key themes – are they still fit for purpose? | June 2021                   |
| Discussion with partner agencies   | July 2021                   |
| Drafting of the report   | September 2021              |
| Discussion by the Welsh Language Steering Committee  | November 2021               |
| Consultation on the Welsh Language Strategy  | December 2021/ January 2022 |
| Cabinet decision on Welsh Language Strategy  | March 2022                  |
| Implementation of the new Welsh Language Strategy  | March 2022 onwards          |

### 5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

The decision contributes to the development of the Welsh Language and culture, which underpins the Council's Corporate Plan.

### 6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

There is no funding available for this work. Any costs would be absorbed by the current partners and through the goodwill of members.

## **7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?**

Whilst no formal Well-being Impact Assessment is needed for this report, it is worth noting some of the key benefits in relation to the Well-Being and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language Standards.

One of the key components of the well-being and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is having: “A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language : A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation”.

The Council also has a role, through its Welsh Language Standards, to promote opportunities for local communities to get involved in Welsh Language activities.

## **8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?**

Consultation has been carried out with the Cabinet Lead Member for Welsh Language and with the Lead Corporate Director.

## **9. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**

The main risk is a potential decline in the number of Welsh speakers in the county (as measured by the national census). All partner organisations have also committed to contributing towards the development of the Welsh language nationally and towards the million speakers target set by the Welsh Government by 2050.

## WELSH LANGUAGE STEERING COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

| Meeting                | Item (Description / Title)                | Purpose of Report  | Lead member and Contact Officer |
|------------------------|---|--|---------------------------------|
| <b>9 November 2021</b> | 1 Cyflwyniad gan Bartner                  | To receive a presentation on the work of Mudiad Meithrin   | Carys Gwyn                      |
|                        | 2 Mwy na Geiriau/ More Than Words         | Update on Mwy na Geiriau/ More Than Words  | Margaret Watkins                |
|                        | 3 Eisteddfod yr <u>Urdd – Diweddariad</u> | Update on Eisteddfod yr Urdd   | Manon Celyn Roberts             |
|                        | 4 Update on the National Eisteddfod 2020  | Update on the National Eisteddfod 2020   | Manon Celyn Roberts             |
|                        | 5 Welsh Language Commissioner             | To update the Committee on the findings of the Committee – areas for improvement and areas for promoting during 2021 | Manon Celyn Roberts             |

### **Note for Officers – Report Deadlines**

| <i>Meeting</i> | <i>Deadline</i> | <i>Meeting</i>  | <i>Deadline</i>   | <i>Meeting</i> | <i>Deadline</i> |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <i>July</i>    | <b>29 June</b>  | <i>November</i> | <b>26 October</b> |                |                 |

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