

Report To: Full Council

Date of Meeting: 6th of December 2016

Lead Member / Officer: Cllr Huw Jones – Lead Member Community Development
Nicola Stubbins Corporate Director – Communities

Report Author: Emlyn Gwynedd Jones (Public Protection Manager)

Title: **Welsh Language Steering Committee**

1. What is the report about?

1.1 The report relates to establishing a formal Welsh Language Steering Committee.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

2.1 The reason for making the report is so that a decision can be made to establish a formal Welsh Language Steering Group within the Council's constitution.

3. What are the Recommendations?

3.1 The recommendations are that Council:

- Adopt the Welsh Language Steering Committee approving its addition to the Council's principal committee structure
- Confirm the scope/remit of the Welsh Language Steering Committee

4. Report details

4.1 The Welsh Language Standards have been issued to the Authority by the Welsh Language Commissioner. The majority of the standards came into force on the 1st of April 2016. A smaller number of standards relating to policy development came into force on the 1st of October 2016.

4.2 Members, Senior Management and staff are embracing the new Welsh language standards. 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.

4.3 A Welsh Language Steering Group currently exists within the Council. It is chaired by the Lead Member Community Development and is formed of Members with officer representation through Corporate Director – Communities, Public Protection Manager and Team Leader Communications. The current terms of reference for the Group is attached as Appendix A.

4.4 Members of the Welsh Language Steering Group have discussed changing the group from its current internal form to a public committee. Members of the group were in favour of the following:

- The committee would be a formal committee with meetings held in public and agenda documents published on the Council's website
- Similar to other principal committees it would have 11 Members, politically balanced
- It would be an advisory committee whose membership could contain executive (Cabinet) and non-executive Councillors

4.5 The existing terms of reference for the Welsh Language Steering Group have been adapted by officers within Democratic Services and can be found as Appendix B to this report. It is proposed that this would be the terms of reference for the new Welsh Language Steering Committee.

4.6 The new Welsh Language Steering Committee would aim to coordinate political and officer support to the delivery and implementation of the Council's forthcoming Welsh Language Strategy and monitor progress with the implementation of the Welsh Language Standards. It will also help to ensure that the Council continues to be closer to the community and provide the required status which comes with a formal committee. This is in line with Council's vision for the Welsh Language.

4.7 The committee support provided for the other committees would be provided to the new Welsh Language Steering Committee.

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

5.1 The Council has prioritised the Welsh Language and embraced the Welsh Language Standards. This decision will help to ensure that the Council has the structure in place to monitor and govern the development of the Welsh Language within the Council.

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

6.1 This will be contained within existing resources.

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

7.1 Please find the assessment attached to the report.

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

8.1 Consultation has taken place with the Welsh Language Steering Group, Lead Member for Community Development, CET and Cabinet.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1 The cost of establishing the steering committee should be contained within existing resources.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

10.1 The risks of not implementing this change is that fails to have the necessary structure in place to secure the delivery and implementation of the Welsh Language Strategy and Welsh Language Standards.

11. Power to make the Decision

11.1 Section 101 and 102 Local Government Act 1972