

Report To:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	28 th February 2017
Lead Member / Officer:	Cllr Huw Jones – Lead Member Community Development Nicola Stubbins – Corporate Director Communities
Report Author:	Emlyn Jones Public Protection Manager
Title:	Welsh Language Strategy

1. What is the report about?

1.1 The report relates to the Council's proposed Welsh Language Strategy.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

2.2 The reason for the report is to brief Cabinet on the proposed Welsh Language Strategy that will be presented to Cabinet on the 28th of February 2017.

3. What are the Recommendations?

3.3 For Cabinet Members to consider the content of the report and approve the proposed Strategy.

4. Report details

4.1 A Welsh Language Strategy for the Council is needed to outline the Council's vision for the Welsh Language and what we will do over the next 5 years to promote the language with the aim of increasing the number of people that can speak Welsh within the County. The Welsh Language Commissioner also requires the Council to produce a Strategy that must include a target for increasing or maintaining the % of Welsh speakers in the area by the end of the 5 year period.

4.2 The Strategy has developed under 5 main themes:

- Strategic Planning of the Welsh Language in Denbighshire
- Children and Young People
- Community
- Business and the Economy
- Internal Administration of the Council

Specific actions are then included under each theme.

4.3 The Council is proposing to increase the % of people able to speak Welsh within the County by 0.5% by the end of the Strategy period. The Strategy will be both ambitious and realistic.

- 4.4 In preparation for the Strategy consultation has taken place with the Corporate Director (Communities), Lead Member, Welsh Language Champions, Middle Managers through workshops and wider Members through a separate workshop. Suggested actions from Services were obtained from the consultation and included in the Strategy Action Plan. Further meetings have taken place with Middle Managers/Services to agree the final actions.
- 4.5 We have met with Partners within the Fforwm Iaith/Language Forum i.e Urdd, Menter Iaith etc to seek their views on the draft strategy.
- 4.6 The draft Strategy has been presented to the Council's Welsh Language Steering Group, which is attended by both Members and Officers and to the Council's Senior Leadership Team.
- 4.7 The actions will be monitored through Verto on a quarterly basis and reported to the Council's new Welsh Language Steering Committee. Actions included in the Strategy will also be included in Service Plans.
- 4.8 The draft Strategy can be found as Appendix 1 to this report.

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 Further work will be required to identify the resources required to deliver on the ambitions within the strategy in line with the priorities of the new corporate plan.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment? The completed Well-being Impact Assessment report can be downloaded from the [website](#) and should be attached as an appendix to the report

- 7.1 The Well-being Impact Assessment is attached to the report.

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

- 8.1 Consultation has taken place with Lead Member Community Development, Corporate Director Communities, Senior Leadership Team, Service Managers, Welsh Language Steering Group, Partners (Urdd, Menter Iaith) and Welsh Language Champions.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

- 9.1 Further work will be required to identify the resources required to deliver on the ambitions within the strategy in line with the priorities of the new corporate plan.

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 Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 & Welsh Language Standard 145