

Report To: Welsh Language Steering Committee

Date of Meeting: 19 March 2019

Lead Member / Officer: Huw Hilditch Roberts / Nicola Stubbins

Report Author: Gareth Watson, Team Leader- Communications and Campaign Management

Title: Work of Partner Iaith

1. What is the report about?

The work of Partner Iaith, the cross-county forum which looks at how the Welsh Language can be developed strategically across the county.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To discuss the current work programme for Partner Iaith.

3. What are the Recommendations?

To agree the approach to the work programme.

4. Report details

The role of Partner Iaith is to:

- Contribute towards the Welsh Government's target of reaching a million Welsh speakers by 2050, through having a local vision to see the number of Welsh speakers in Denbighshire using the language increasing.
- Increase the number of opportunities for people to use the Welsh language (children, Young people, families, businesses and community groups)
- Increasing people's awareness of the value of the Welsh language being part of our heritage and the modern Wales.
- Working jointly with partners to discuss, share ideas and avoid duplication.
- Work on a partnership level to identify any gaps in Welsh language provision and arrange activities to meet the needs.
- Create opportunities to promote the Welsh Language in the local economy and in Public Services – the work of Councils, Health, education and Leisure.
- Emphasising the economic-cultural worth of the language on the tourism industry

- Emphasising the importance of the language to those organisations responsible for regeneration projects.

The Partner Iaith is made up of the following members: *Denbighshire County Council*; Menter Iaith Sir Ddinbych; Coleg Cambria; Mudiad Meithrin (yn cynnwys prosiectau megis Cymraeg i Blant/ Clwb Cwtsh; Welsh Government (Welsh Language Unit); Canolfan Dysgu Cymraeg (Coleg Cambria/ Popeth Cymraeg); Urdd Sir Ddinbych; Merched y Wawr and the Young Farmers.

The Group has been looking at opportunities for cross-promotion, monitoring Denbighshire County Council's Welsh Language Strategy and joint promotion at key events across the County.

The most recent activity involved extensive mapping of activities currently being arranged in the fields of leisure; children; young people; communities; businesses; families and older people county-wide

Whilst there are numerous activities going on in the main town centres in the Vale of Clwyd (activities that are centred around schools but are open to others), there are less activities occurring in rural parts of the county, in coastal communities and some areas of south Denbighshire.

To this end, it is being proposed:

- That Partner Iaith carries out further mapping of activities not being led by the partner organisations. (this work to be carried out by May 2019)
- Analyse the findings by September 2019
- Make recommendations that will be included in a Forward Work Plan for the Partner Iaith.
- That the Partner Iaith supports Welsh Language committees already set up to support the Urdd Eisteddfod and look at setting up additional committees in the areas where there is a greater need.

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 budget in place for the Welsh Language. Any costs are expected to be absorbed into existing budgets.

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

The main risk is to the reputation of the authority, as we have already made a commitment in our Welsh Language Strategy and through the Welsh Language Standards to increase the use of Welsh in the workplace and in communities.