

<b>Report to</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date of meeting</b>	27 June 2023
<b>Lead Member / Officer</b>	Councillor Emrys Wynne / Gary Williams Corporate Director: Governance and Business
<b>Head of Service</b>	Gary Williams Corporate Director: Governance and Business
<b>Report author</b>	Manon Celyn Roberts, Welsh Language Officer
<b>Title</b>	Welsh Language Strategy 2023-28

## **1. What is the report about?**

This report is about the new Welsh Language Strategy for Denbighshire 2023-28.

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

To present the new Welsh Language Strategy and seek Cabinet's approval of it.

## **3. What are the Recommendations?**

That Cabinet approve the new Welsh Language Strategy attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

## **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. The Council is required to revise its strategy, five years on from publication date.

4.3. Officers have looked at several examples of best practice from other councils, the demographic information that's available and taken into account the successes of the previous strategy.

4.4. When drafting the strategy, the Council has engaged and consulted with the relevant internal and external services and partnerships. This engagement and consultation has informed the final draft version.

4.5. The Council has commissioned the Language Planning Centre to analyse data, carry out research, and draw up an assurance report on the Welsh Language Strategy 2017-2022. (see appendix 2 for this report)

## **5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Plan 2022 to 2027: The Denbighshire We Want?**

The decision contributes to the development of a Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language which is part of the key objectives of the Council's Corporate Plan 2022-27.

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

There is no separate funding available for this work but Communities and Customers Services paid £12,000 for the costs of commissioning the Language Planning Centre to produce the assurance report (November 2022). This will not be the case every time we need to revise the Strategy (every 5 years), it is solely because this is our first Welsh Language Strategy and assurance report. Any other 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?**

Consultations have been carried out with the Cabinet Lead Member for Welsh Language and with the Lead Corporate Director. The Strategy has also been approved by the Welsh Language Steering Committee and been adopted by Denbighshire's Welsh Language Partnership Forum.

## **9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

There are no ongoing financial implications of this report and the costs have been contained within overall service budgets. The report is supported.

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

There is already a decline in the number of Welsh speakers in the county as measured by the national census 2021. We need to make sure that we halt any further decline. 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.

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

Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011