

MEETING:	LANGUAGE COMMITTEE
DATE:	APRIL 16 2013
TITLE:	2011 CENSUS: SEMINAR ON THE SITUATION OF THE WELSH LANGUAGE IN GWYNEDD
AUTHOR:	EQUALITY AND LANGUAGE OFFICER
PURPOSE OF REPORT:	FOR INFORMATION

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. During the meeting of the Language Committee held on January 17 2013, a report was presented on the initial results of the 2011 Census in relation to the Welsh language. By now, data is available to ward level and, and to raise awareness of this amongst elected Members and to promote discussion of the implications, a Seminar was arranged to present the evidence and provide an opportunity to discuss the situation and response on a local level.
- 1.2. The Seminar was held at the Canolfan in Porthmadog on March 20 2013 .

2. THE SEMINAR

- 2.1. There were presentations by the Council leader and by the Council's Information and Research Manager. Following an introduction to the Census data on a national, county and district level, discussion groups for Arfon, Dwyfor and Meirionnydd were assembled, facilitated by Council officers and with members of the Corporate Research Unit at hand to analyse the statistics.
- 2.2. Discussions were based upon two questions: "What has changed or not since 2001?" and "what are the reasons for this?" This provided an opportunity for Members to discuss the situation within their wards and to analyse changes and identify future priorities.
- 2.3. Following on from the Information and Research Manager's presentation and the results of the discussions, it would appear that the main factors behind the change are:
 - Migration
 - The Economy
 - Education Policy

- Planning Policy
- Use of the Language.

We can see from the discussions that the same themes were raised by the 3 groups:

- Use of the language and the confidence to use it
- In and out-migration patterns
- The role of schools and education in promoting the language
- Housing and planning matters
- Raising awareness of the Welsh language
- Influencing other organisations.

2.4. A summary of the discussions can be seen in Appendix 1.

3. NEXT STEPS

- 3.1. As more Census information is published, it is essential that we continue to analyse and that elected Members remain core to this process. It is also accepted that members have a key role to play within their wards as promoters and champions of the Welsh language.
- 3.2. The intention is to develop and expand upon this work through the organisations following the Area Committees, where Members will be given more opportunities to discuss, analyse and identify local priorities and responses.