

GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET



Report to the Cabinet

Meeting Date: 13 March 2018
Cabinet Member: Councillor Mair Rowlands
Contact Officer: Gwenllian Mair Williams
Contact Number: 01286 679469
Item Title: Gwynedd Language Strategy 2018

1 DECISION SOUGHT

1.1 Seeking for the approval of the Cabinet on the consultation version of the Welsh Language Strategy 2018.

2 REASON WHY DECISION IS NEEDED

2.1 In order to ensure that there is agreement on the content of the Strategy and the priorities laid out in it, and that they are in line with priorities that have been identified in other plans like the Council Plan and the Gwynedd and Anglesey Well-being Plan.

3 INTRODUCTION

3.1 In accordance with Standard 145 (Welsh Language Standards, Welsh Language Measure (Wales) 2011), we have a statutory obligation to publish a language strategy that explains how we intend to promote and encourage the use of the Welsh language in the county.

3.2 This strategy must contain, amongst other things, a target for increasing or maintaining the number of Welsh speakers within the county.

3.3 Gwynedd's current language strategy has been operational since 2014, and was developed and published by Hunaniaith, the language initiative (Menter Iaith) for Gwynedd, with the Council as the main partner. Hunaniaith has been primarily responsible for the implementation of that strategy.

3.4 The new strategy will be led by Gwynedd Council, and all departments will be expected to contribute to the implementation of its aims, as well as external partners.

3.5 The strategy has been written as a continuation of the previous strategy for Gwynedd, but will also reflect the commitments made and the areas of

priority noted in the Welsh Government Welsh Language Strategy Cymraeg 2050.

3.6 The strategy will also reflect the current commitments made in relations to the language in the Council Plan and the Gwynedd and Anglesey Well-being Plan, as well as wider commitments relating to the fields of education and planning.

4 NEXT STEPS & TIMETABLE

4.1 It is suggested that the Strategy goes out to public consultation during March and April, including presenting it to the Language Committee in their next meeting on 25th April.

4.2 Following the consultation period, we will start work on the implementation plan, before publishing the final draft of the Strategy in the summer.

4.3 It is intended to bring the Strategy back to the Cabinet for final approval on 12 June, and to the full Council meeting for approval on 12 July 2018.

5 ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

5.1 A workshop was held with members of the Language Committee in October 2017 to give them a chance to contribute ideas and priorities for the Strategy. A workshop was also held with officers from Hunaniaith, and specifically so on the subject of promoting the language in the community.

5.2 Views of Statutory Officers:

Monitoring Officer:

The requirement to prepare a Language Strategy stems from the Language Standards placed on the Council through the provisions of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. I support the proposal to present the final Strategy to the Full Council for adoption which is a step permitted by Schedule 3 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Functions and Responsibilities) (Wales) Regulations 2007.

Finance Officer:

The proposed Language Strategy identifies several visions, events or plans, but I received confirmation from the author of the report that relevant services within the Council will be able to operate as needed within the current resources of the departments.