

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee
<b>DATE</b>	September the 10 <sup>th</sup> 2024
<b>TITLE</b>	The <i>Perthyn</i> Project
<b>PURPOSE</b>	Inform members
<b>AUTHOR</b>	AONB Officer
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	Accept the recommendation.

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 This report on the “Perthyn” project is included on the agenda of the JAC following on the previous meeting on June 27<sup>th</sup>. At that meeting it was decided, after a long discussion, to discuss the matter further at the next meeting.

**2.0 THE COMISSION FOR WELSH SPEAKING COMMUNITIES**

2.1 The Comission for Welsh Speaking Communities was established by Welsh Government in 2022 to look at the challenges that face the Welsh language and suggest ways of amending public policies to support the language within communities. The Comission is made up of ten independent members with expertise and experience in various policy matters. The committee chair is Dr Simon Brooks.

2.2 The Committee published it’s final report at this year’s National Eisteddfod in the presence of Eluned Morgan, Wales’ First Minister.

2.3 The Committee’s report looks at the deterioration of the Welsh language and efforts to support the language over the last few decades. It concludes that the strongholds of the language, where Welsh is used widely every day such as Llŷn, are vitally important for the future wellbeing of the language nationally. The report considers how to define such areas – identified as areas of “higher density linguistic significance”, conceding that this is not a simple matter and suggesting a threshold of 40% or higher being able to speak Welsh.

2.4 The report moves on to suggest actions to be taken within these “areas of higher density linguistic significance” in order to support the language, increase pride and adapt public policies so as to be more

supportive. There are recommendations for action in various fields such as the Economy, Education, Housing and Planning. The Commission's full report can be seen on the Welsh Government's website:

[Commission for Welsh-speaking Communities: report | GOV.WALES](#)

### **3.0 PERTHYN PROJECT**

- 3.1 The *Perthyn* project has been established by Cyfeillion Llŷn and Cymdeithas Pen-y-graig, as a response to a speech by Jeremy Miles in 2022 (when he was Cabinet Minister for the Economy, Energy and the Welsh Language). In the speech he states “The Welsh language belongs to us all...therefore we all have a responsibility to work together to secure it's future”. The *Perthyn* project supports the Welsh Government's aim of securing a Million speakers by 2050 and also supports the work of the Welsh Communities Commission which advocates designating “areas of higher density linguistic significance”.
- 3.2 Additionally, *Perthyn* supports *Croeso Cymraeg – A Welsh Welcome* – a tourism industry which places more emphasis and support to the Welsh language and culture. Specifically the *Perthyn* project has 3 main aims:
  - Safeguard and strengthen the Welsh language within communities
  - Increase the number of Welsh speakers and households
  - Present a Welsh Welcome and the history of our area (“bro”) to all.
- 3.3 Cyfeillion Llŷn and Cymdeithas Pen-y-graig has raised awareness of the *Perthyn* project among the town and community councils of Llŷn. As a consequence on December the 11th 2023 three Llŷn community councils – Aberdaron, Botwnnog and Tudweiliog decided to designate their areas as Areas of Linguistic Significance. Following on numerous other community councils within Llŷn and Eifionydd have also joined the project.
- 3.4 The *Perthyn* project has been proactive in various other language related activities such as house letting policies, language statistics, Welsh placenames etc. A Statement has been prepared on behalf of the *Perthyn* project and is included as Appendix 1.

#### **4.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 Welcome the Weklish Communities Comission's report and relay the JAC's support to the Welsh Government.
- 4.2 To support in principle the Perthyn project and it's 3 main aims.