

MEETING	Language Committee
DATE	5 July 2016
TITLE	Language Investigation – Visibility of the Welsh language in Gwynedd
PURPOSE	Updating members on the work of the investigation thus far
AUTHOR	Councillor Craig ap Iago, Chairman of the Investigation
CONTACT OFFICER	Hawis Jones, Strategic Planning, Performance and Projects Manager

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Council's Strategic Plan states that we need to see a situation where Gwynedd continues to be a stronghold for the Welsh language, and that it is an everyday language that is heard and spoken naturally by children, young people and adults across the county."
- 1.2 The purpose of the Language Investigation – Visibility of the Welsh language in Gwynedd is to consider the extent to which the visibility of the language is in names, signs and advertisements across the count, is important in the context of the status of the language and the confidence of citizens in its use as a natural part of everyday work. It also considers the degree to which the Council has influence over that visibility and whether the Council needs to do more.

2.0 Progress thus far

- 2.1 The investigation working group met for the first time on 26 February and the brief was agreed. The investigation has thus far:
- Interviewed officers on the implementation of the language policy regarding the Council's procurement arrangements (procurement and legal units)
 - Interviewed officers on the implementation of the language policy regarding the Council's regulation of roadside verges.
 - Interviewed officers on the implementation of the language policy regarding transport management
 - Held a joint discussion with the Deputy Leader of the Council and Dr Rhian Hodges and Dr Cynog Prys, language experts from the University of Bangor
 - Interviewed Gwynedd language development officers
 - Interviewed the Council's Marketing and Customer Care (Tourism) Manager
- 2.2 Further interviews are in progress with the following individuals:
- Research Professor Durk Gorter, Ikerbasque (The Basque Foundation for Science)
 - Development Management Manager – Housenames and Placenames (Planning Unit)
 - The Council's Museums and Arts Manager
 - The Council's Events Manager
 - Senior Manager – Economy and Community Development with responsibility for Leisure services

- Head of the Council's Economy and Community Development Service

2.3 The investigation's members are working closely throughout the work with Dr Hodges and Dr Prys from Bangor University.

2.4 The group is considering the possibility of a "Welsh area" to trial the effect of the consistent visibility of the Welsh language.

2.5 It is intended to discuss with the Chief Executive and the Cabinet member (Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn) before the end of the investigation.

2.6 The work will lead to a series of recommendations to be shared for the consideration of the Language Committee.

3.0 Recommendation

The members are asked to note and accept the information.