

MEETING:	LANGUAGE COMMITTEE
DATE:	13 OCTOBER 2016
TITLE:	THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT: A MILLION WELSH SPEAKERS BY 2050
AUTHOR:	DEPUTY COUNCIL LEADER
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT	<p>The Language Committee is duty bound to fulfil a consultative role on language promotion strategies within the county.</p> <p>The purpose of the report is to seek members' views on the consultation document: A Million Welsh Speakers by 2050, and receive any additional observations to my draft response to the consultation document on behalf of Gwynedd Council.</p>

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The Language Committee is duty bound to fulfil a consultative role on language promotion strategies within the county.

2. CONSULTATION DOCUMENT: A MILLION WELSH SPEAKERS BY 2050

2.1 On 1 August 2016, Welsh Government published a consultation document: *Consultation on a Welsh Government draft strategy: A million Welsh speakers by 2050*. The consultation period is being extended until 31 October 2016.

2.2 The consultation document reflects the long-term vision of Welsh Government for the Welsh language, and details that by the year 2050: *'the Welsh language will be thriving, and the number of speakers will have risen to a million. It is natural to use it in every aspect of life, and among those who do not speak it there is goodwill towards it and an appreciation of its contribution to the culture and economy of Wales.'*

2.3 In order to realise the strategy's aim of doubling the number of Welsh speakers by the middle of the century, Welsh Government has identified 6 key areas for action:

1. Planning and language policy
2. Normalisation

3. Education
4. People
5. Support
6. Rights

A copy of the consultation document is available in Appendix 1.

3. MY DRAFT RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT ON BEHALF OF GWYNEDD COUNCIL

- 3.1 As Deputy Council Leader with responsibility for the Welsh language, I have drafted a response to the consultation document on behalf of the Council. A copy of the draft response is included as Appendix 2.
- 3.2 I am eager to obtain the views of members of the Language Committee on the consultation document, and similarly, I am eager to receive any additional observations to include as part of the Council's response to the consultation document.
- 3.3 After receiving the observations of members of the Language Committee, I will amend the response and subsequently my draft response will be submitted before the Leadership Team on 18 October 2016, before being forwarded to Welsh Government.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to:

- discuss the content of the consultation document: A million Welsh speakers by 2050
- submit any additional observations to be included as part of my response to the consultation document on behalf of Gwynedd Council.