

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>LANGUAGE COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>23 APRIL, 2015</b>
<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>LANGUAGE INVESTIGATION – THE USE OF THE WELSH LANGUAGE AT MEETINGS OUTSIDE THE COUNCIL</b>
<b>AUTHOR:</b>	<b>SENIOR MANAGER – DEMOCRACY AND DELIVERY</b>
<b>PURPOSE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>TO PRESENT AN UPDATE TO THE COMMITTEE.</b>

1. This Committee has decided to follow a system of investigating specific issues in greater depth, on the pattern of scrutiny investigations, and has agreed that the first investigation should be into the use of the Welsh language at meetings outside the Council.
2. The purpose of the Investigation is to:-
  - a) understand the current use of the Welsh Language at meetings and
  - b) to ensure and facilitate compliance with clause 3.3.5. in the Council's Language Scheme, which is: "Staff are instructed to contribute through the medium of Welsh at externally-arranged public meetings, committees and conferences, and to request simultaneous translation."
  - The areas under consideration can include:-
    - Pressing external bodies and organisations to provide simultaneous translation
    - Chairing meetings bilingually and how to encourage from the Chair
    - Contributing to meetings through the medium of Welsh
    - How to communicate needs effectively and memorably
2. The Investigation has started its work and will be holding its second meeting this month when it will interview the Leader, relevant Cabinet Member and Chief Executive on their experience on the use of the Welsh Language at meetings outside the Council. In addition, the Investigation will interview Dr Enlli Thomas from Bangor University who will advise the Investigation on the psychology of the use of language.
3. Whilst this is underway, the Investigation will also be distributing two questionnaires, one for the Council's Managers and Elected Members who attend external meetings and the other being sent to outside bodies to which the Council send representatives.
4. The questionnaire for managers and members will seek honest responses on their use of the Welsh Language at outside meetings and seek to work through what is needed for them to be more confident in their use of the Welsh language at such organisational meetings.
5. The questionnaire for external bodies will ask, amongst other things, what provisions are in place to promote the use of the Welsh Language at meetings.
6. The Investigation will then look at thematic areas to see what can be learnt about promoting the use of the Welsh Language at meetings.
7. The hope is that the Investigation will have completed its work so that it can report back to the Language Committee by its meeting in the autumn.
8. Having completed this, the Committee will then have to decide, in due course, on the area it wants to investigate next after a further discussion with the Welsh Language Champion.