Complete Agenda

Meeting

LANGUAGE COMMITTEE

Date and Time

10.30 am, TUESDAY, 24TH APRIL, 2018

Location

Siambr Hywel Dda, Council Offices, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 1SH

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LANGUAGE COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP (15)

Plaid Cymru (8)

Councillors

Elwyn Edwards
Aled Ll. Evans
Elin Walker Jones
Elfed Williams

Alan Jones Evans
Judith Mary Humphreys
Olaf Cai Larsen
Charles Wyn Jones

Independent (5)

Councillors

Elwyn Jones
Kevin Morris Jones
Eirwyn Williams

Eric M. Jones
John Pughe Roberts

Llais Gwynedd (1)

Councillor

Alwyn Gruffydd

Gwynedd United Independents (1)

Councillor
Vacant Seat - Gwynedd United Independents

Aelodau Ex-officio / Ex-officio Members
Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES

To receive apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

To receive any declaration of personal interest

3. URGENT BUSINESS

To note any items that are a matter of urgency in the view of the Chairman for consideration

4. MINUTES 4 - 6

The Chairman shall propose that the minutes of the previous meeting of this committee held on 27 February 2018, be signed as a true record (attached).

5. LANGUAGE STRATEGY CONSULTATION 7 - 37

6. A REPORT OF THE COUNCIL'S POLICY ON PLACE NAMES 38 - 49

7. TAN20 PRESENTATION - PLANNING DEPARTMENT

8. GRIEVANCES AND INVESTIGATIONS

Agenda Item 4

LANGUAGE COMMITTEE, 27.02.18

Present: Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd (Chair)
Councillor Cai Larsen (Vice Chair)

Councillors: Elwyn Edwards, Alan Jones Evans, Aled Evans, Judith Humphreys, Charles W. Jones, Kevin Morris Jones, and Eirwyn Williams.

Also present: Councillor Mair Rowlands (Cabinet Member – the Welsh Language) and Dylan Bryn Roberts (Popdy Centre Manager, Hunaniaith).

Corporate Support: Janet Roberts (Corporate Support Senior Manager), Gwenllian Williams (Welsh Language Services Manager), and Sioned Williams (Member Support Officer).

Education Department: Debbie Anne Jones (Area Education Officer), Carys Lake (Gwynedd Secondary Sector Language Strategy Coordinator).

1. **APOLOGIES**

   Councillor Eric Jones.

2. **DECLERATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

   No declarations of personal interest were received by any member present.

3. **URGENT MATTERS**

   No urgent matters were received.

4. **MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

   The Chair signed the minutes of this previous meeting held on the 12th October, 2017 as a true record.

5. **REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER – THE WELSH LANGUAGE**

   The Cabinet Member for the Welsh Language presented a report detailing recent developments in the field, including the following:

   - The appointment of Eluned Morgan as the new Minister with responsibility for the Welsh Language – there is an intention to extend a formal invitation, inviting her to Gwynedd, to showcase the work underway here.
   - There has been no update on what will happen regarding the Welsh Language Bill.
   - Work on the Council Plan consultation, which will go before the Full Council on the 1st March 2017, along with the Wellbeing Plan where the Welsh Language has been included as one of the priorities.

- ▪ The Welsh Language Services Manager was thanked for her work in developing the Gwynedd Welsh Language Strategy which will go out for consultation in March.
- ▪ Have met with Bethan Webb, Deputy Director of the Government's Welsh Language Unit and frequent meetings will continue to discuss national and local matters e.g. Developments in language technology.

RESEOLVED accept the contents of the report.

6. GWYNEDD WELSH LANGUAGE STRATEGY

The Welsh Language Service Manager presented an update on the contents of the Gwynedd Welsh Language Strategy. The strategy's original timescale for consultation has been pushed back slightly to ensure that the strategy's priorities are in line with the priorities identified in the Council Plan and Wellbeing Plan. The draft Language Strategy is now completed and will go before the Cabinet on the 13th March 2018 to ask for approval to start the consultation period. It is intended for the strategy to be presented to the Language Strategy in April for formal consultation.

Members were guided through the contents of the draft strategy. During the following discussion, a series of questions/observations from individual members were responded to:
- ▪ The content of the draft strategy was welcomed and gratitude was extended to the department for their work.
- ▪ The importance of enriching opportunities to utilise the language as a natural, communal language which is used every day; although this will not increase the number of people speaking the language, it will strengthen the language for the future.
- ▪ What is the value of a strategy against the value of a policy?
- ▪ Arrangements to manage the performance of the priorities – it is important that the Language Committee has a significant role in this process.
- ▪ There is a need to analyse the detail of our partners' work to ensure that our work is not duplicated.

RESOLVED accept the draft strategy.

7. GWYNEDD SECONDARY SECTOR LANGUAGE STRATEGY

The Gwynedd Secondary Sector Language Strategy was presented by the Area Education Officer and the Secondary Sector Language Strategy Coordinator. It was noted that the strategy was developed in response to calls to ensure the continuation of Language Charter, which has been operating in primary schools for some time. The strategy, in draft form, has gone before the Secondary Sector Language Strategy Planning Group, the Language Committee, and the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee for consultation, and was approved by the Cabinet on the 26th October 2017.

Members were guided through the contents of the strategy. During the following discussion, a series of questions/observations from individual members were responded to:
- ▪ Is there a way to monitor the number of pupils who speak Welsh in schools such as Tywyn?
- ▪ There is a need to address the continuous decline in the results of pupils who are assessed in First Language Welsh at the end of KS3. Is there a way to incorporate these needs into GwE provision?

- Response to the strategy from the new Head of CBAC
- The need to increase the number of teachers who teach first language Welsh to set a standard of teaching every subject in Welsh.
- Ensure that volunteers/coaches who teach children after school use the Welsh language.
- Need for the strategy to expand to every section of the Council.
- Important for the colleges to also be included in the strategy.

RESOVED accept the content of the report and the next steps.

8. AN INTRODUCTION TO HUNANIAITH

The committee was given a presentation by the Manager of the Popdy Centre in Bangor on the work of 'Hunaniaith', which is Menter Iaith. During the following discussion, a series of questions/observations from individual members were responsed to:

- Is the work of Hunaniath duplicating the work of the libraries?
- The importance of accepting the language regardless of the way it is being spoken
- The need to promote more Welsh medium activities to young people

9. GRIEVIANCES

No grievances were noted.

10. ANY OTHER MATTERS

No other matters were raised.

MEETING:	LANGUAGE COMMITTEE
DATE:	24 April 2018
TITLE:	Consultation on Gwynedd Language Strategy
AUTHOR:	Gwenllian Williams
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT	Present the consultation document, Welsh Language Promotion Plan for Gwynedd 2018-2023 to the Members

1. Background

1.1 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.

1.2 The new strategy will be lead by Gwynedd Council, and all departments will be expected to contribute to it's implementation, as well as external partners. The strategy will also reflect the commitments made in relation to the Welsh language in the Gwynedd Council Plan, the Gwynedd and Mon Well-being Plan, as well as wider strategic plans.

1.3 A draft strategy has been written on the basis of consultation with members, and taking into consideration other strategies and plans relevant to the field of work.

1.4 A consultation process will be held over the next six weeks which will include sessions with the heads of services internally and representatives from external partners and community groups.

2. Next steps

The final Strategy, along with a detailed Implementation Plan, which will include commitments from various departments and external bodies to fulfil the aims, will be brought before the Cabinet and afterwards to the full Council meeting in the Autumn.

3. What is being asked of the members?

3.1 We ask the members to consider and discuss the contents of the Welsh Language Promotion Plan for Gwynedd.

3.2 The consultation questionnaire has been included to facilitate the debate, and members are invited to offer their opinion on the different aspects.

3.3 Members can also offer individual feedback by filling in the questionnaire and returning it to the Language Officer on cydraddoldebaciaith@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

Welsh Language Promotion Plan for Gwynedd 2018-2023

Contents

1. Introduction

The Welsh Language Standards, as enforced on Gwynedd Council in accordance with Section 44 of the **Welsh Language Measure (Wales) 2011** sets a requirement on the Council to produce a 5 year promotional strategy that will show how we intend to promote and facilitate the use of the Welsh language in the county.

Gwynedd Council has a long history of promoting and protecting the Welsh language as a natural means of communication in all of its services. The language is given a prominent place in the strategic plans of the Council, and the Language Policy sets out our commitment to the Welsh language by noting that it is the responsibility of all staff and council Members to promote the Welsh language in all aspects of their work.

The **Gwynedd Council Plan 2018-23** sets as one of its well-being objectives the aims to ensure that all residents can live in a community where the Welsh language is a natural part of life.

This Strategy builds on the work carried out on the **Gwynedd Welsh Language Strategy 2014-18**, that was led by Hunaniaith (the language initiative in Gwynedd that operates within the language unit of the Council). It notes the opportunities available to promote and increase use of the Welsh language as a natural part of everyday life in the county. The Strategy will also offer ideas on how Gwynedd can contribute towards the **Welsh Government Language Strategy: Cymraeg 2050**, which sets the target of getting a million Welsh speakers in Wales by 2050.

With the Council leading the work on this new strategy, it will also reflect the wider commitments made in relation to the Welsh language in areas such as education, planning and care and social services*, and complement the priorities noted in the **Gwynedd and Anglesey Well-being Plan** and **Gwynedd Council Plan.**

The implementation and success of the Strategy will depend on cooperation with many partners, public bodies and community groups, in order to tackle the various challenges and barriers that face the Welsh language across the county.

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*More than just words…. Follow-on strategic framework for Welsh language services in health, social services and social care

http://gov.wales/topics/health/publications/health/guidance/words/?skip=1&lang=en

2. Summary of the present situation and challenges

2.1 Vital Statistics

According to the 2011 Census 65.4% of the population of Gwynedd can speak Welsh.

There was an increase in the percentage of Welsh speakers in some parts of the county, namely the wards of Waunfawr, Ogwen, Y Groeslon, Llanbedr, Corris/Mawddwy, and an increase back over the 70% mark in the ward of Clynnog.

But there was a general decline in the number of wards with over 70% of the population able to speak Welsh, with only 39 left of the 71 wards according to the 2011 census.

The largest drop in Welsh speakers was seen in the 65+ age group, with the biggest increase amongst the youngest of our population, with an increase from 70.9% to 73.0% in the 3-4 age group and from 91.8% to 92.3% in the 5-15 age group, which suggests that early years programmes and the education system is doing a good job of setting strong foundations for the children and young people in regards to their abilities and use of the language.

2.2 Summary of the Challenges

In order to find the opportunities to increase the number of speakers and increase the use of the Welsh language, we must also acknowledge the challenges and barriers that stop that from happening. We need to be able to identify those areas in the county or parts of life where people use less of the language during their day to day lives, and understand the factors that can affect the personal language use of individuals.

Certainly the challenge, and one of the most important factors in the prosperity of the language in Gwynedd, is to get people to use the skills and abilities they have in as many situations and circumstances as possible.

In order to encourage that increase in use, we need to consider the effects of the following factors, and how we can counteract them to increase the opportunities available to people in all parts of the county to use and feel a connection with the language.

- **Geographical challenges :**
  Varying levels in the percentage of Welsh speakers across the county means that different answers and interventions are needed in different areas. The variation in the jobs and services available in some rural areas can also have an effect on the prosperity of the language.

- **Demographic changes:**
  Young people moving out of the area to find work and a lower number of families moving in to an area because of a lack of services can lead to an older population, which can lead to a higher or lower rate of Welsh speakers.

- **Transferring the language within the family:**
  Families not transferring the language to the children, leading to losing the language as a language of the home.

- **Losing a number of Welsh speakers after 16 years of age:**
  No steady progression in regards to language use as young people leave education and stop using the language when they move into work or in their social life as young adults.

- **The status of the Welsh language as a language of business:**
  The language is not given a prominent enough place in business.

- **People's confidence in their own ability and skills:**
  A lack of opportunities to use the language regularly in socialising, and difficulties in accessing Welsh medium services can lead to a lack of confidence, and to less use.

3. What we would like to see?

Here is a summary of the vision, and what we would like to see happening in Gwynedd over the next few years.

- Families that see a benefit of using the language as a language of the home

- Schools that give all encouragement and support to developing fluent Welsh speakers

- Young people that see a value to the language as a skill for life and as a means of entertainment and socialising, and who use it in every part of life

- Public bodies that offer Welsh language services regularly and to a high standard

- Private and business sector that gives the Welsh language value and status and that understands it's value as a skill and a business asset

- Community groups given support to maintain the language as the natural means of communication

- The Welsh language given a clear and obvious priority in economic, housing and planning schemes locally in order to ensure that any schemes and developments contribute in a positive way towards the efforts to safeguard and strengthen the Welsh language in our communities

- Residents that are confident in using the Welsh language and show good will and a positive attitude towards it.

In the next part of the document, we will take a closer look at some of the points above under five thematic areas that also reflect the key strategic areas in the **Welsh Governments Language Strategy.**

We will in due course produce a detail action plan on the basis of those priorities, which will set out how the Council, along with community and public sector partners, will go about promoting the language and increase its use in the county.

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3.1

Priority Area 1:
The language of the home

The vision…

- An understanding amongst parents of the value of transferring the language to their children, and of the benefits of bilingualism and multilingualism.

- An increase in the number of pre-school age children that have access to play opportunities through the medium of Welsh.

- An increase in the number of children who come from homes where more than one language is spoken who can speak Welsh.

- An increase in the number of parents who learn a little or some Welsh and use those acquired skills with their families.

The statistics…

90% of 3-4 year olds in Gwynedd can speak Welsh if they come from homes where both parents speak Welsh.

63% of 3-4 year olds can speak Welsh when only one parent in the home can speak Welsh.

Even more positively, 35% of children in Gwynedd who are being raised in homes where neither parent can speak Welsh, are noted as Welsh speakers in the 2011 census.

What needs to happen next?

We need to continue to work with other agencies and partners in the early years sector to ensure that positive and consistent messages are being shared with parents about the value of the language, not only for the children but for the whole family, and to encourage more parents to learn the language alongside their children.

We have to make sure that efforts in this field is targeted appropriately, and that play opportunities that will encourage parents and carers to use the Welsh language with their children are offered with consistency in all parts of the county.

Therefore, we need to make sure that practices and expertise is shared effectively between organisations and providers to ensure the widest and best possible reach and influence.

For example, there are a host of independent groups and providers in Gwynedd, who provide a whole variety of play and social opportunities for young families, like story and song sessions, swimming and keep fit sessions. A large number of childcare providers also provide Welsh medium care, and are in a prime position to influence the language acquisition of children in their care.

There is an opportunity here to influence those providers by offering them language awareness sessions and training tailored especially for them on matters such as their role in conveying positive messages about the Welsh language to parents. Hunaniaith has already done some work in this area, in partnership with Cymraeg for Kids, and we would like to see that work continued and developed over the next few years.

3.2

Priority Area 2:
The language of learning

The vision…

- Schools that give the language prestige and value by continuing to implement the Language Charter in primary schools and the Language Strategy for secondary schools.

- An increase in the number of young people that choose to study and receive qualifications through the medium of Welsh.

- More pupils continuing to improve their Welsh language skills in transferring from primary to secondary, and on to post-compulsory education.

The statistics…

According to the 2011 Census, 1,997 or 73% of 3-4 year olds in Gwynedd can speak Welsh and 13,038 or 92% of 5-15 year olds.

According to the data of the Language Charter, only 41.2% of KS2 pupils use the Welsh language "all the time" on the school yard.

The percentage of Welsh speakers in Gwynedd drops sharply when you move from the 3-15 age group to the 16-24 age group, from 89% to 58.6%.

The Welsh Language Strategy of the Welsh Government, Cymraeg 2050, notes that over half of Wales's learners leave school at 16 years of age, moving on to employment based or occupational further education.

What needs to happen next?

Various projects are being implemented by the Councils Education department in relation to this area of priority, with the Gwynedd Educational Language Policy and the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan setting the strong foundations for the work being done. In extending the reach and operation of those projects over the next few years, we hope to have a positive effect on the language use and choices of our young people, that will in its turn lead to a better attitude towards the language as they grow older.

The main project for the next few years will be the **Secondary Schools Language Strategy**, which has been developed as a continuation to the work of the language charter – a project developed under the previous Gwynedd Language Strategy. The aim of the strategy is to ensure that the Welsh language is an effective medium for school work and life in all its variations, and to have a positive influence on the language used by young people in a curricular and social context.

Every school will implement the **Secondary School Welsh Language Strategy**, and work towards ensuring that all school stakeholders are a part of the scheme.

The Language Charter for primary schools is continuing to grow as well – having been rolled out across the whole of Wales under the guidance of the Welsh Government. This project means that schools are working hard to positively influence attitudes and use of the Welsh language outside the classroom, and continuing to provide support to the staff and wider school family will be essential over the next few years.

Post compulsory education

We will also be working to try and reduce the number of Welsh speakers we lose in Gwynedd as they leave the influence of the school environment.

There is a strong link here with the use of the Welsh language in business and work, and the need for young people to see the value of the language as an asset and a skill. We will therefore be working with post compulsory education providers to strengthen the link between occupational courses and the work opportunities and employers in the county who are looking for workers with linguistic skills, in order to ensure that the skills and abilities needed in the local workplace is provided through the education system.

3.3

Priority Area 3:
The language of work and services

The vision…

- An increase in the number of residents who use the Welsh language in work and in using services – face to face and online.

- An increased awareness amongst business owners and managers of the benefits of Welsh language skills in the workforce and the benefits of offering Welsh medium services.

- A better understanding and awareness of the opportunities provided by technology and resources to increase the use of the Welsh language and confidence in doing so within the workforce.

- The Welsh language being given a central place in regional arrangements for cooperation and strategic planning.

The statistics...

According to the National Language Use Survey of 2013-15, 85% of the fluent Welsh speakers in Gwynedd use the language every day. This has decreased from 90% in the 2004-06 survey.

Over 90% of Gwynedd Council staff can speak Welsh, which means that it is possible for the residents of Gwynedd to access Welsh medium services wherever they are in the county.

What needs to happen next?

We will be trying to ensure that there are as little barriers as possible to using services through the medium of Welsh, and that those services are as easy as possible to use and understand.

This will mean using our influence in the Public Services Boards to increase the use of the Welsh language within public bodies in the county to ensure that consistent and high quality services are provided to the public. This will mean encouraging service users to use the Welsh language in their first contact with the public bodies, as well as developing an understanding amongst the bodies themselves of best practice in relation to greeting service users in that first contact.

In ensuring that workforces have the necessary ability and skills, and that businesses understand the need to give the Welsh language status in recruitment practices, we will increase the opportunities for people to use the Welsh language while seeking services.

Over the next few years, the Council as an employee will develop a varied programme of language training in order to develop the skills of the workforce, to provide more opportunities for learners to practice in order to lead to a positive change, and to try and deal with the issues of confidence in written skills. We will also work on behavioural change models in order to try and have a positive influence on the linguistic practices of the workforce, and the wider public.

We will need to find new ways of encouraging people to use Welsh language services, online and face to face, as well as ensuring that the Welsh language is promoted and highlighted as part of contracts to co-provide or outsource services.

By setting and agreeing on strong conditions with partners and external providers, and insisting that working contracts stick to our principles and standards, we can improve the quality of more services provided to the public.

In accordance with the commitment in the Council Plan, we will need to work with local private sector businesses, and especially so in the tourist and leisure sectors,

in order to provide clear guidance on giving the Welsh language a prominent platform in their activities, and to Welsh (and multilingual) skills in their recruitment policies. This would raise the profile of the language as a working language, as well as raising its profile amongst international visitors and contribute towards the sense of place for tourists.

We will be encouraging more businesses and bodies to adopt the active offer principle, and to realise that linguistic courtesy and respect towards the language choice of users can create a lot of good will, and that we should always strive to offer the services that meets the linguistic needs of the public rather than waiting for them to have to ask for them.
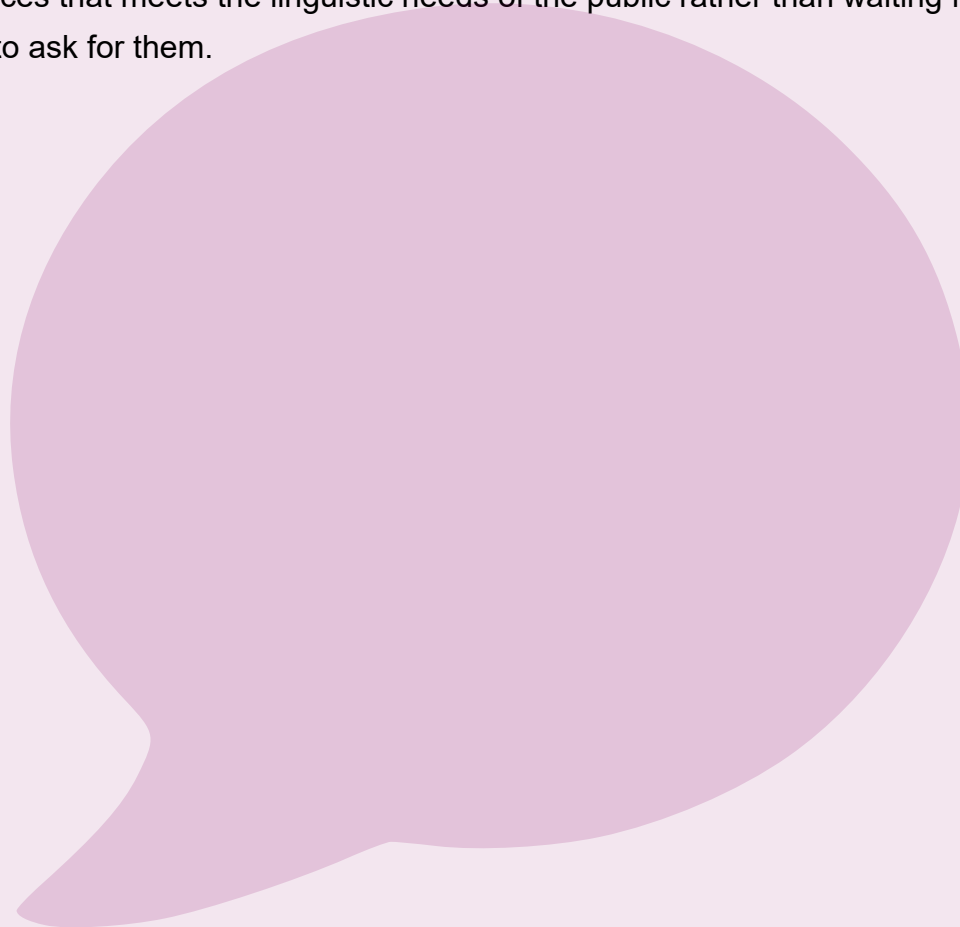
3.4

Priority Area 4: The language of the community

The vision…

- An increase in the percentage of the population that consider themselves fluent Welsh speakers.

- Community groups given support to organise and put on activities that actively promote the Welsh language.

- The Welsh language visually apparent, in activities and in advertising on social media, ensuring at the very least a bilingual and inclusive ethos to community events.

- Young people being encouraged to be community leaders by organising events that influence the language use of their peers and increase opportunities to socialise naturally through the medium of Welsh.

- Different social and community factions, including less willing speakers of the language, being made to feel a part of the "Welsh community".

- The Welsh language given a clear and obvious priority in economic, housing and planning schemes locally in order to ensure that any schemes and developments contribute in a positive way towards the efforts to safeguard and strengthen the position of the Welsh language in our communities.

The statistics...

The National Language Use Survey of 2013-15 (Welsh Government and Welsh Language Commissioner 2015) shows that an increasing number of people consider themselves Welsh speakers, but not fluent speakers, with that number increasing from 13,800 in 2004-06 to 19,400 in 2013-15.

Page 26

What needs to happen next?

The menter iaith (language initiative) in Gwynedd is Hunaniaith, and operates as part of the language unit the Council, and as such the work carried out by them and their partners will be crucial in implementing the vision in this specific area.

Hunaniaith will continue to develop projects that will provide opportunities for people to use the Welsh language naturally in new and varied contexts. They will also look for opportunities to develop the use of the language in technology.

They will continue to work closely with external partners and community organisations to provide practice opportunities to encourage the confidence of those who are less willing to speak or use the language, or who are new speakers, in order to integrate different factions of our communities more effectively.

They will offer support to voluntary groups and community representatives and work to increase awareness and understanding of the role each and every one of us has to play in maintaining the language, and to increase the pride in it as a living language.

They will also offer support to ensure there are varied opportunities available to people of every age to use the language in their communities, but especially to young people, who are at a very vulnerable and influential stage of their lives.

We will need to work alongside many community partners in this area, as well as community councils and businesses who are responsible for organising activities in our communities. Raising the status of the Welsh language within some of the high profile large events, and seeing organisers giving Welsh language providers and entertainers the right stage would show the community as a whole, and especially young people, that there is value to the language in all fields.

It will also be very important that the language is given the proper priority and attention in the Council's strategic plans and policies that have an effect on communities, and especially so in the context of planning.

The Welsh Language Unit of the Council will continue to work closely with the Planning Unit in order to develop expertise in that specific area that will in turn strengthen and protect the linguistic interests within the planning process.

3.5

Priority Area 5: Research and technology - setting the right foundations

The vision…

- Developing a better understanding of people's habits in using the Welsh language.

- Finding new ways of influencing people's use of the language.

- More people ready and willing to use the Welsh language in the context of technology.

What needs to happen next?

We will try and use our unique situation, and the large concentration of Welsh speakers in the county in order to better understand the habits and trends of people in using the Welsh language, and to try and increase their use of the Welsh language while using technology.

We will develop a better relationship with the universities of Wales in order to identify opportunities to contribute towards research in the fields of language planning and behavioural change. This will in turn help us to better understand how people use the language in different contexts and how we can adapt to those changes.

We will offer more work experience opportunities for students that will give them a better understanding of the practical elements of language planning, and to contribute towards developing expertise in the area.

We will develop projects that will encourage more people to use the Welsh language on the internet, on social media and in using self-service, and consider the most effective way of using and utilizing the Welsh language in those contexts to encourage and increase use.

5. Implementing the Strategy

As this Strategy is being led by the Council, it will concentrate mainly on those areas where it has direct influence. However, as there is close collaboration with other bodies and agencies across many of the strategic areas, many other partners and community organisation will also have a role to play in promoting the Welsh language across the county.

In working across Gwynedd and Anglesey, for example, the Public Services Board can influence other bodies like the Health Board, and other bodies who provide services to the public.

Maintaining effective relationships with organisations like Cymraeg i Blant, the Urdd, and many others that receive funding through the Welsh promotion grant distributed by the Welsh Government, will also be crucial in order to ensure there is no duplication of work, and that our efforts to protect and promote the language is going in the same direction.

Our intention is to fulfil the main elements of this Strategy in cooperation with some communities, and by working strategically to mainstream the Welsh language and language planning, and ensure it is an integral part of plans, strategies, programmes, policies, projects and activities provided and organised in Gwynedd.

This means that the Welsh language, and the promotion of its use, becomes a natural part of policy and the implementation of economic and regeneration plans, planning, housing policy, education and integration. All this alongside the numerous campaigns to promote the Welsh language that are implemented directly by communities themselves.

The Strategy will need to measure to what extent we succeed in weaving together these differing elements, how other policies contribute towards the prosperity of the Welsh language, and how we identify and influence on policies when they hinder or boost the Welsh language.

Consultation on the Welsh Language Promotion Plan for Gwynedd

2018 - 2023

Introduction

In accordance with Standard 145 (Welsh Language Standards, Welsh Language Measure (wales) 2011), we have a statutory obligation to publish a 5 year language strategy. This Strategic document will set out how we intend to promote and encourage the use of the Welsh language across the county.

This Promotion Plan has been drafted, and the Council would like to give you the opportunity to have your say.

You should read the **Welsh Language Promotion Plan for Gwynedd 2018-2023** before filling in this questionnaire. There will be paper copies of the document available with the questionnaire.

The following questions ask you to respond to page 2 of the Plan – "Summary of the present situation and Challenges"

1. **Do you agree with the definition of the challenges that face the Welsh language and the opportunities available to strengthen it in Gwynedd?**

☐ Yes

☐ No *(please note why in the box below)*

[Please insert your comments here]

2. **Are there any other challenges that you feel we have missed and that we should give particular attention to?**

☐ Yes*(please note what in the box below)*

☐ No

[Please insert your comments here]

3. **Is there any background information or evidence that you feel we should have included in order to help you understand the current context better?**

☐ Yes*(please note what in the box below)*

☐ No

[Please insert your comments here]

4. **Do you agree with the general vision noted under the title "What we would like to see" (page 4)?**

☐ Yes

☐ No *(please note why in the box below)*

[Please insert your comments here]

The following questions are general ones regarding section 3 of the Plan (pages 5-19), which deals with the Priority Areas. We ask you to note particular pages or Priority Area in noting your comments.

You can give general comments on the plan at the bottom of this questionaire (question 10)

5. **Do you agree with the general vision noted for the different Priority Areas in the Plan?**

☐ Yes

☐ No *(please note why in the box below)*

[Please insert your comments here] **Priority Area 1:**   **Priority Area 2:**   **Priority Area 3:**   **Priority Area 4:**   **Priority Area 5:**

6. **Are there any opportunities you feel we have missed in any of the priority areas, or any you feel we should be giving particular attention to??**

☐ Yes *(please note any ideas in the box below)*

☐ No

[Please insert your comments here]

Priority Area 1:

Priority Area 2:

Priority Area 3:

Priority Area 4:

Priority Area 5:

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7. **Do you agree with the description of what should happen next?**

☐ Yes

☐ No *(please note why in the box below)*

[[Please insert your comments here]

Priority Area 1:

Priority Area 2:

Priority Area 3:

Priority Area 4:

Priority Area 5:

8. **Do you have any other ideas about what could be done to achieve the vision in any of the priority areas?**

☐ Yes *(please note any ideas in the box below)*

☐ No

[Please insert your comments here]

Priority Area 1:

Priority Area 2:

Priority Area 3:

Priority Area 4:

Priority Area 5:

9. **Do you see a role for you or your organisation in achieving the vision in this Plan?**

☐ Yes

☐ No

Pleas note what role or contribution you envisage, and which Priority Area your work would contribute towards.

10. **If you have any questions or other comments about this questionnaire, you can note them below:**

MEETING:	**LANGUAGE COMMITTEE**
DATE:	**24 April 2018**
TITLE:	**Draft document on Gwynedd Place Name Policy**
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT	To present the draft research paper that outlines the duties and statutory requirements on the Authority in respect of naming, recording and promoting house, street and place names in Gwynedd
AUTHOR:	**Elliw Alwyn**
CONTACT OFFICER	**Gwenllian Williams (ext: 32469)**

1. Background

1.1 The manes of streets and geographical features has been the subject of numerous complaints over the last few years, and there have been many discussions in the Language Committee about how we can safeguard and protect the native Welsh names in Gwynedd.

1.2 As a result of these complaints and enquiries, the language unit have noticed some irregularities and a lack of clarity regarding what is the full remit and responsibility of the Council in different circumstances in trying to safeguard Welsh place names. Different departments within the Council hold different pieces of information, and are responsible for different aspects in this area. Different departments are also responsible for sharing information with external bodies, like the OS and the Royal Mail.

1.3 We decided to embark on some research, that would take us some of the way towards getting a better understanding on the matter, and how we can go further in protecting Welsh place names In the future.

1.4 The aim of this document and research, therefore, is to improve the understanding of the Members of the Language Committee of the functions and procedures that are involved and the services that are responsible for various aspects of influencing on the place names used and recorded by the Authority.

1.5 The report also notes the statutory rights that the Authority holds, and it's current policies that are relevant in this area.

1.6 The document also notes the statutory duties of other relevant bodies in Wales that are responsible for naming, and recording and promoting place names, and the Authority's relationship with them

1.7 The Future Generations Well-being Act 9wales) 2015 and the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016 are two new relevant pieces of legislature in this regard.

2. What is being asked of the members?

2.1 Confirmation that the Members have a better understanding of the responsibilities and procedures of the Authority's departments in regards to naming, recording and promoting Welsh place names.

2.2 Confirmation that the Members are agreed that the Authority's departments are doing all that they currently can in regards to promoting the use of Welsh place names that are unique to the heritage of Gwynedd.

2.3 Guidance in regards to developing this work, and whether there is a need to research further or produce a new official policy on the matter.

3. Consideration of the next steps

3.1 If agreed, the recommendations noted in the draft report will need to be turned into tangible actions. These could be introduced in the form of a policy or a guidance document for staff.

3.2 It should be ensured that the relevant departments and officers are consulted on any recommendations and before passing any new policy or guidance to ensure that what is being asked is practical and possible within the present resources (human and financial) of the Council.

3.3 If a policy is formed, it will need to go through the proper channels, and be approved by the Cabinet, before being implemented.

4. Recommendation

We ask the Members of the committee to consider the draft report and the information contained in it, and discuss any next steps. Is there a need for further work in this area, and are there any questions we have not addressed?

Subject: Research Paper looking at Place Name Policy

1. Introduction

1.1 Street names and geographical features have been the subject of several complaints over recent years and the Language Committee has held several discussions on how to safeguard Welsh names.

1.2 The Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015 and the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016 are new legislations which this matter relates to.

1.3 This document provides an outline of the relevant considerations and attempts to clarify the functions and procedures of the services which are responsible for aspects of naming and recording place names within this authority.

1.4 The document also sets out the statutory duties of other relevant Welsh bodies who are responsible for naming and recording place names and their relationship with the authority.

1.5 The aim of this document is therefore to ensure members have a better understanding of the functions and procedures associated with this matter.

2.0 Name and Name Change Statistics for Gwynedd in 2017

The Building Control unit will provide detailed statistics by the end of May but last year's general statistics are as follows:

Language	New Name	Rename
Welsh	98	2 (from English to Welsh)
English	14	Historical connection with the area for each. (1 naming a company and 1 renaming from a previous English name to and English name).

3. What is needed?

3.1 Confirmation that members have an improved understanding of duties and procedures in relation to naming and recording names within the provisions of the relevant legislation.

3.2 Confirmation that members are of the opinion that relevant services promote to the best of their ability the use of Welsh names that are characteristic of the inherent heritage of Gwynedd.

3.3 Committee guidance in relation to the development of the said work within the authority, further investigation or the need to introduce and adopt a new official policy.

4. Legislative Context

4.1 This paper should be considered in the following legislative context:

a) Section 17 and 18 of the Public Health Act 1925
b) Town Improvement Clauses Act 1847
c) Welsh Language Act 1967
d) Welsh Language Act 1993
d) Welsh Language Measure (Wales) Order 2011
f) The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
e) The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016

5. Policy Context

a) Naming Draft Policy; Building Control, Consultancy
b) The Authority's Welsh Language Scheme; Language Services, Corporate Support
c) Welsh Names Policy; Welsh Language Name Policy in the Ordnance Survey database
d) Standardization of Welsh Place-names Guidelines; Welsh Language Commissioner
d) Statutory Guidance on how Local Authorities, National Park Authorities and Natural Resources Wales should use the Historic Environment Records and contribute to development.

6.0 Outline of Gwynedd Council's Duties and Rights in relation to naming and renaming housing, new developments and streets

Department	Duties	Type of Organization
Building Control	Administer applications from individuals and developers to name and rename property and developments. Promote and prioritize Welsh names and where possible, prioritize historical names.	Right to recommend a Welsh name and ask a candidate to reconsider if it is not in order to safeguard and protect the local heritage (housing and new developments). Right to send a Welsh name only to the OS and Post Office

	Send the names to OS and Post Office to avoid duplication before allowing name and allocation of postcode.	and to indicate that only a Welsh name will be registered.
Language Services	Ensure that Building Control policy gives sufficient consideration to the safeguarding and promotion of the Welsh language.	The authority has the right to refuse non-welsh names on streets.

The authority has the right to name Welsh streets and rename following a legal process. |
| Translation Unit | Advise on Welsh names | Right to reject names when there are cases of duplication in Welsh or otherwise. |
| Information Technology | Record the permitted and adopted names in a digital register that feeds into a digital national directory. | If street names have been recorded bilingually, then the sign must be bilingual for the benefit of the emergency services. |
| Highways | Numbering and re-numbering houses | Gwynedd Council administers the process of naming and renaming housing, new developments and streets.

The authority has the right to name and rename streets and the right to refuse an application from an individual to do this.

Gwynedd Council promotes and gives priority to Welsh names and historical names.

The Council can name, influence and consult on names and send them to the OS, the Post Office and the national names register. |

7.0 Outline of the duties and rights of other relevant bodies in Wales in relation to naming and renaming housing, new developments and streets

	Name	Duties	Type of Organization
	Developers / builders and homeowners	Submit new names for new developments and housing. Contact the Council and offer a name or three names in relation to developments.	Body or person submitting a name.
	Community and Town councils	Protect and influence the names, historic features, developments and streets of their communities. Influence the names, historic features, developments and streets of their communities.	A consultative and influential body that can recommend Welsh names that are characteristic of the heritage of the local area.
	The Welsh Place Name Society	Standardization, naming and renaming of place names in Wales. Authority on place names in Wales.	Recommend, influence and promote natural Welsh names. A consultative and influential body that can recommend Welsh names that are characteristic of the area's heritage but also safeguard non-Welsh names if they are part of the area's history (e.g. Latin).
	Ordnance Survey	Record place names on official maps. Maps updated every six months. Recording, naming and renaming body in consultation with bodies that are recognized authorities on place names and local communities.	Records names and change names based on local evidence of locally-known names and bodies that are recognized authorities on place names. AO places emphasis on creating modern maps rather than historical ones according to the policy officer.

	Welsh Language Commissioner	National Welsh Place Names Panel. Standardization, promotion and safeguarding of Welsh place names.	Standardization of Welsh Names and Welsh Names Guide. Standardization, promotion and consultative body that can recommend Welsh or historical names. The Commissioner can also safeguard non-Welsh historical names if they are considered a significant part of an area's history (English, Latin, etc.) names.
	Royal Mail	Records addresses and place names that it is informed of by the local authority. Allocation of Postcode. An administrative body that allocates a postcode and ensures that there are no duplication of addresses.	Its aim is to facilitate mail delivery to correct addresses, ensuring that addresses are correct for the emergency services and ensuring that there are no duplication of addresses.
	Departments of Advanced Welsh Language, Celtic Studies, Language Technologies, Archeology and History of Welsh Universities - University of Wales, Bangor in Gwynedd	Academic authority on place names in Wales. Investigates, interprets, explains and influences the place names of Wales.	Advisory and consultative organization that recommends and promotes names based on linguistic, historical, geographical and archaeological knowledge.
	Welsh Government	Holds and maintains a national statutory record of historic environment names under the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016.	Recording and consultation on place names in Wales. Provides a Government guide for safeguarding the historic environment. Holds a register and provides guidelines that

			Local Authorities, National Park Authority and Natural Resources Wales should consult with and contribute to its development.

8. Current Practices

8.1 Following initial investigation it appears that the Building Control service has a draft policy in place that sets out the statutory duty of the authority and its procedures.

8.2 The draft policy was drawn up in 2014 and the Equality and Language Officer was then consulted in order to advise on the promotion of the Welsh language within the policy. The responsibility for the policy is delegated to the Building Control service as it holds the statutory duty to name and number houses, developments and streets and the policy falls under the provisions of the Public Health Act 1925. It must be remembered that the unambiguous recording of addresses, housing and estates is important in relation to public health and safety and the ability of the emergency services to reach any destination safely and so that mail can be delivered to the correct addresses.

8.3 It was decided at the time that the procedures would be piloted before moving forward to adoption of a policy. In the meantime, the officers responsible for this area of work have moved to other posts and therefore the work has not been developed as planned.

8.4 As mentioned above, new laws have come into existence since the drafting of this policy namely the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

8.5 The draft policy on naming and renaming provides that priority is given to Welsh names. The relevant clause is:

"Gwynedd Council requires that proposed names ...
• where possible, derive from the historical, geographical or local connections of the area
• and will give priority to Welsh names ".

8.6 Guidelines on the Council's corporate website provide advice and guidance to developers and property owners on the naming and renaming policy and procedures in Gwynedd.

8.7 The public (individual applicants such as homeowners and developers who develop new estates) have the right to submit non-welsh names but a procedure is in place where the Council asks them to reconsider non-Welsh and they are allowed 28 days to do so.

8.8 Currently, the Council's Building Control officers suggest a translation of non-Welsh names, in consultation with the translation unit. However, these will be direct translations of the names and does not necessarily take into consideration or reflect the history or heritage of the area in any way.

8.9 In relation to the names of new developments, developers submit three names and again, Council officers will prioritize Welsh names and encourage developers to consider the linguistic, historical and cultural nature of the area.

8.10 It is not known to which extent a consultation on historical names of the local area currently takes place and what procedure is in place to do this.

8.11 The current draft policy stipulates that each application will be considered based on its own merits and the legal advice received was that policies should not be too rigid so each application can be considered according to its own merit and that decisions should be justified based on individual cases.

9. Some of the questions we were trying to answer

9.1 Is it possible to insist on Welsh names in order to safeguard the natural heritage of the area or is it the intention to promote Welsh names to the best of our ability so that non-Welsh speakers can learn about the heritage of the area and come to love, appreciate and respect it?

There is no provision in the Public Protection Act 1925 in relation to the authority's statutory right to name or rename new housing and developments but there is in relation to streets. The administration of naming or renaming housing and new developments is the authority's duty under the provisions of this act but the law provides that street names can be named or renamed by means of a legal process.

However, the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 provides for the promotion of the Welsh language in all aspects of local administration and the draft naming policy stipulates that Gwynedd Council's policy is to give priority to Welsh names within its communities. The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 also commits local authorities to safeguard their local heritage and this is one area where this can be done.

9.2 Are Welsh names only permitted on streets or are bilingual names a must?

The Council has the right, by way of an Order, to name o rename a street (or part of a street) where a name had not previously been given (Section 18, Public Health Act 1925).

Gwynedd Council has the right to oppose an application from a candidate who suggests a new name for a street (or part of a street) (Section 17, Public Health Act 1925).

See full provision in Sections 17 and 18, Public Health Act 1925.

Following legal advice, these are the principles that the Council should use when making a decision under Section 17 and Section 18 of the Public Health Act 1925:

When making a decision to name or rename a street (or part of a street), or to object an application to name or rename a street (or part of a street), as appropriate, the Council will consider each application according to his own merit. However, the Council will follow the principle of giving priority to naming a street (or part of a street) in Welsh only, and for this purpose the Council will act in the interests of good administration and for the benefit of the local community.

Before deciding, the Council will have the right, if appropriate, to consult the local community and can then consider the responses received. Exceptional circumstances, such as for local historical or cultural reasons, can lead the Council to divert from the policy of giving priority to the Welsh language, and therefore, as an exception, a street or part of a street can be named bilingually or in another language.

The Council has the right to change street names to Welsh only but the name would have to be formally recorded as such with the relevant agencies and the sign could only be changed following this procedure so as to ensure that the emergency services can easily reach any destination. Each case would be considered as an individual case and the extent of the human and financial resources needed to follow this process would need to be considered. There would be a legal process to follow in each case.

9.3 Is there any reason why Welsh signs only cannot be used when an English version of the same address exists. If the Council is responsible for a sign, why can it not have Welsh signs only?

If the name is registered bilingually then the name on the sign must be bilingual for the benefit of the emergency services.

A legal process would have to be followed to change the name and the registered name would have to be checked before any sign can be changed.

The Ordnance Survey, the Post Office and Emergency Services would need to be consulted to check how the name is registered and then a process would have to be adhered to to change the name to a Welsh name.

It would be necessary to ensure that the sign corresponds to that registered by the relevant agencies. The Council would be at risk of being called to an inquest should a member of the public suffer due to ambiguous place names.

Again, we would have to take into account the resources needed to rename streets before proceeding to do so.

It must be remembered that it has been the practice, since the Welsh Language Act 1993, to name and rename Welsh street names, according to the Building Control service and that every effort has been made to persuade homeowners and developers to name houses and developments in Welsh only in order to safeguard the heritage of the area.

10. Recommendations and Considerations for the future

10.1 Greater clarity is needed regarding to which extent the authority consults about Welsh historical place names when naming and renaming and this will need to be incorporated into any

new policy or procedure.

10.2 Building Control officers who deal with the public will need to be aware of any new policy or procedure that exists in order to safeguard and preserve the historic and indigenous names of Wales.

10.3 Similar policies and good practice within other local authorities should be considered.

10.4 The Ordnance Survey's Welsh name policy will need to be revisited and possibly compared with the Gaelic names policy in order to share and adopt good practice.

10.5 It will be necessary to consider the extent to which the Council can influence the adoption and preservation of Welsh names when in discussions with the Ordnance Survey and the Post Office.

10.6 A robust system for consulting with relevant organizations regarding historical Welsh names will need to be established.

10.7 A comprehensive list of guidelines and consultation resources that the Council will use will need to be compiled and approved.

10.8 The consultation guidance and consultation resources will need to be made available to the public, staff, elected members and town and community councils.

10.9 Ordnance Survey should be consulted regarding examples of consultation with local authorities on naming and renaming which set a precedent for Wales.

10.10 Work was carried out on the standardization of the Council's place names database by the IT Unit circa 2004 and it was agreed at the time that pushing for giving priority to Welsh names would be the way forward. Clive James, Chief Policy Officer, presented the report of the Chief Executive's Department regarding the nature of the names that were kept in the Council's database and sent to the National Land Information Service and the National Land and Property Register. This register could be revisited and an update on the database could be requested.

10.11 Any new policy would have to specify the duty or function of each service, the names and contact details of all relevant authority officers and all relevant procedures relating to the matter.

10.12 The translation unit's policy is to use natural Welsh names within the body of any text except in circumstances where non-Welsh names are used for historical reasons. The translation unit utilizes a place name list and also utilizes the Gazetteer of Welsh Place Names which is recognized in academic circles. A digital database of Welsh place names is now available on the University of Wales Bangor website and its use should be promoted.

http://www.e-gymraeg.org/enwaucymru/introduction.aspx

Also, the Place Names Database, Dr Melville Richards Archive, Bangor University:

http://www.e-gymraeg.co.uk/enwaulleoedd/amr/

10.13 The use of Welsh Government's Statutory Welsh Historic Names Register should be promoted under the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The purpose of the list is to raise public awareness of the rich heritage of place names in Wales and to promote the safeguarding and continuation of this important feature of the nation's heritage.

The register is available free of charge online and is a record that continuously evolves based on authoritative academic information. The Government wants the register to be used to

• help the public learn about the history of their communities;
• support academic research a
• be the basis of decisions in managing the historic environment.