

<b>MEETING</b>	Language Committee
<b>DATE</b>	28 February 2017
<b>TITLE</b>	Language Investigation – Visibility of the Welsh Language in Gwynedd
<b>PURPOSE</b>	To submit the recommendations of the investigation
<b>AUTHOR</b>	Councillor Craig ap Iago, Chairman of the investigation
<b>CONTACT OFFICER</b>	Hawis Jones, Strategic Planning, Performance and Projects Manager

## **1.0 Background**

1.1 The Council's Strategic Plan states that the Council needs 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 was to consider the extent to which the visibility of the language in names, signs and advertisements across the county 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 considered the degree to which the Council has influence over that visibility and whether the Council needs to do more.

1.3 This was done by:

- a) Considering the latest research and evidence from the Language planning field about the importance of language visibility and linguistic landscape.
- b) Considering the areas where the Council can ensure influence over the county's linguistic landscape including:
  - The Council's management of its own property and land
  - The Council's procurement arrangements
  - Grant conditions and assistance provided by the Council
  - The degree of influence which the Council has on signs placed on roadsides
  - House and place names

1.4 The purpose of this report is to submit a series of the investigation's recommendations for the consideration of the Language Committee before they are submitted to the Cabinet member.

## **2.0 Conclusions of the investigation**

The attached report (Appendix 1) includes the conclusions, together with a note of the evidence behind those conclusions, with the investigation's recommendations following. The recommendations have been numbered (A1-25).

### **3.0 Implementing the recommendations**

The work of the investigation has been running concurrently in part with the work of the audit of the situation of the Welsh language in Gwynedd Council. If the Cabinet member agrees to implement the recommendations, then it is suggested that they are incorporated in the:

- i) Language Audit Action Plan
- ii) Language Audit Communication Plan

The training which is to be held as a result of the conclusions of the language audit will also be able to incorporate any requirements associated with the recommendations of this report.

The recommendations of the report are also consistent with the Ffordd Gwynedd culture of putting the people of Gwynedd at the centre of everything we do and supports the Council's aspiration to be proactive in its support of the Welsh language.

### **4.0 Recommendation**

The members are asked to consider the recommendations of the Language Investigation – Visibility of the Welsh Language in Gwynedd for submission to the Cabinet member.