

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
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1. Background

- 1.1 The names 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 (Wales) 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?