

GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET



Report to a meeting of Gwynedd Council Cabinet

Date of meeting	24 November 2020
Report by	Dafydd Iwan, Chair of the Hunaniaith Strategic Group
Subject	Hunaniaith

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this brief document is to form the basis for a discussion between the Hunaniaith Strategic Group and the Gwynedd Council Cabinet.

1. As Chair of the Hunaniaith Strategic Group, I believe that the report by IAITH: The Language Planning Centre, as a background document to enable discussion, is a fair reflection of the situation. It clearly sets out the options and opportunities that are open to Hunaniaith.
2. The three options are:
 - i. That Hunaniaith remains as a service unit within Gwynedd Council structures
 - ii. That Hunaniaith is established as an arms-length unit (e.g. subsidiary company in Gwynedd Council's ownership)
 - iii. That Hunaniaith is established as an independent legal entity (e.g. company limited by guarantee, or charitable incorporated organisation)
3. The report sets out the potential disadvantages and advantages of each of these options, but states that the recommendation of the report's authors is the third option.
4. Following a virtual meeting of the Hunaniaith Strategic Group on 14.09.20, a number of us tend to agree with the report's recommendation, and wish to hold a meeting soon with the Council's Cabinet to discuss the way forward.
5. Hunaniaith is very grateful to Gwynedd Council for its support from the outset, and is proud of the work achieved. However, in the face of cutbacks to the resources of Hunaniaith, and the likelihood of increased pressure to make further cutbacks, we believe that it is now time for Hunaniaith to stand on its own two feet, and be responsible for fund-raising from other sources to complement the funding received from Government.

6. As Chair, I have been very aware for some time that Hunaniaith's potential is being hindered by lack of staff and resources (in time and money), and that the current situation does not allow for building on the basis established, or to develop plans that succeeded to expand Welsh language activities in the community.
7. I am very aware that there is an obvious dynamic in many communities that saw the establishment of various Welsh-medium bodies. To name but a few:
 - *Antur Waunfawr
 - *Ynni Ogwen
 - *Nant Gwrtheyrn
 - *Cwrw Llŷn
 - *Gwynedd Housing Association
 - *Plas Glyn-y-weddw
 - *Antur Nantlle
 - *Siop Griffiths
 - *Antur Stiniog

The report in question suggests the establishment of a county Forum, and the obvious thing would be a forum of representatives from these bodies to suggest a work programme for Hunaniaith in order to trigger and expand Welsh-medium activities in the county.
8. It is important to emphasise, as Hunaniaith has done from the start, that the aim is to add to the vibrancy and use of Welsh in the county, and not to compete against what already happens. And the obvious need is to take the Welsh language to new fields, and to areas where the linguistic decline is currently happening.
9. Preparation and research work already carried out by Hunaniaith could form the basis to any plans of course, but it is essential that the emphasis be placed on effective implementation, and for the work to be embedded in the community.
10. There is a lot to be said in favour of the recommendation in the report that the work of Hunaniaith should be split into four geographical areas, in order to strengthen local contact (Bangor and Ogwen, Gwyrfai, Meirion and Dwyfor are suggested as potential regions), but this is a matter for decision.
11. The next important step is to agree with Gwynedd Council and existing stakeholders on a way forward, and to incorporate any recommendation when submitting the next bid for funding to Government, with a view to implement the change one year from now.

GWYNEDD COUNCIL'S CABINET ARE REQUESTED TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

12. That the Cabinet supports the direction of the Hunaniaith Strategic Group to increase the opportunity to strengthen the basis of the Language Initiative (Hunaniaith), by developing it into an independent entity.
13. In order to develop the way forward on the correct basis, that the Cabinet commits to:
 - a. Establish a task force of Council officers to identify the necessary steps that need to be followed to develop Hunaniaith into an independent entity, and identify any further requirements to progress the work
 - b. report back to me as Chair of the Strategic Group and the Cabinet Member, Councillor Nia Jeffreys initially

Dafydd Iwan