

# NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## Cabinet

5<sup>th</sup> February 2020

### Report of Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Digital Officer K.Jones

#### Matter for Monitoring

**Wards Affected:** All Wards

**Report Title:** Welsh Language Promotion Strategy - progress report for the period October 2018-September 2019

#### Purpose of Report

1. To provide Members with progress made against the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy action plan for the period October 2018-September 2019 (set out in Appendix 1).

#### Executive Summary

2. The Welsh Language Promotion Strategy action plan has two sections. The Progress Report highlights progress against the actions included in Section 1 – ‘Internal and 3rd party interventions under control of Neath Port Talbot CBC’ of the action plan and specifically:
  - progress against actions with target dates of 2018 and 2019
  - progress against actions with a target date of 2023.
3. Progress on actions within Section 2 - Interventions by partner organisations (not under control of Neath Port Talbot CBC) of the action plan are not included in this report. Information has not yet been received from the Strategic Language Forum who are overseeing this work; this may be due to a variety of reasons including: action target dates are 2023, no or limited progress made, organisations with different reporting cycles, etc. When received, progress will be reported to members in due course.
4. The rate of progress has been mixed and while some specific targets have been missed these will be realised within the next year so bringing the plan back in line with its original timescales.

## **Background**

5. Standard 145 (Promotion) of the Welsh Language Standards states that every Local Authority must produce and publish on their website a 5 year Strategy that sets out how they propose to promote the Welsh language and to facilitate the use of the Welsh language more widely in their area.
6. A Member Task and Finish Group was appointed to develop a Welsh Language Promotion Strategy for the county borough.
7. The resulting Welsh Language Promotion Strategy and action plan were adopted by Council on 26 September 2018.

## **Progress made during 2018-2019**

8. The action plan contains actions that could be achieved in the short term, within the first year of implementation, 2018-2019, the medium term, by 2020-2021 and the longer term, 2021-2023.
9. Progress has been reported primarily on those actions with a target date of 2018-2019 as well as progress made during the year on the more medium/ longer term actions.
10. The rate of progress has been mixed for the short term actions due to a number of reasons including, over ambitious target dates, increased officer workloads, sickness/maternity leave, the underestimation of the level of complexity in implementation of some actions; examples of which include the language skills strategy.
11. In some areas, including early years provision, significant progress has been made in promoting the Welsh language to parents and childcare providers. This activity is borne out with the rise in the number of children accessing Welsh Flying Start child care during 2018-2019, 135 compared to 104 in 2017-2018.

## **Financial Appraisal**

12. There are no additional financial impacts attached to the implementation of the Strategy as all actions have been developed within budgetary constraints.

## **Integrated Impact Assessment**

13. There is no requirement to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment as this report is for monitoring purposes'.

### **Valleys Communities Impact:**

14. Progress against a number of actions in the action plan will help promote and support the Welsh language within the valley communities, for example, the use of section 106 monies to support the project in Rhos and the various youth clubs and activities across the county borough.

### **Workforce Impact**

15. There are no direct workforce impacts associated with the Strategy as all actions have been developed taking into account our current workforce and resources.

### **Legal Impact**

16. This report sets out how the Council meets its legal duty under the Welsh Language Standards which has been referenced in the body of this report.

### **Risk Management**

17. There are no direct risk management impacts associated with the report however; there may be a financial risk to the Council for failure to comply with the Welsh Language Standards.

### **Consultation**

18. There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

### **Recommendations**

19. For Members to note the progress made against the actions in the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy action plan for the period October 2018-September 2019 as contained in Appendix 1.

### **Appendices**

20. Appendix 1 – Welsh Language Promotion Strategy - progress report for the period October 2018-September 2019.

### **List of Background Papers**

[Welsh Language Promotion Strategy and action plan](#)

### **Officer Contact**

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