

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

19 October 2022

Report of the Head of People & Organisational Development – S Rees

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

Report Title: Welsh Language Promotion Strategy Review

Purpose of Report

To obtain Members approval for proposed arrangements to review the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy.

Background

1. During 2018 members of the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee formed a cross party Task and Finish Group, to develop a Welsh Language Promotion Strategy for the county borough. The resulting Strategy, and action plan, were adopted by Council on 26 September 2018.
2. Progress against the action plan has been reported annually to Cabinet, with the annual report for 2021-2022 reported to Policy and Resources Sub Committee on 4 October 2022.
3. In accordance with the requirements of the Welsh language standard 146 (Promotion) the strategy has to be reviewed and a revised strategy published 'within 5 years of publishing a strategy (or of publishing a revised strategy).'

Review of Welsh Language Promotion Strategy

4. There has been cross party support for the implementation of the Welsh language standards generally as well as more specifically the development of the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy.
5. This member involvement has ensured a strong and balanced approach and in order to continue in this vein it is proposed to establish a Member Task and Finish Group to review the Strategy. It is suggested that the membership of the Task and

Finish Group comprises of Welsh and non-Welsh speaking members of Cabinet Scrutiny Committee and/or Cabinet (Policy and Resources) Scrutiny Sub Committee along with nominated members from across the political spectrum.

6. Advice and assistance to be provided from relevant officers and external organisations where appropriate.
7. It is also suggested that the Welsh Language Champion is included in the membership of the Group.

Financial Appraisal

8. There are no financial impacts in relation to the development of the Language Promotion Strategy.

Integrated Impact Assessment

9. There is no requirement for an Integrated Impact Assessment with this report. However, an assessment will be undertaken as part of the development of the Strategy.

Valleys Communities Impact:

10. While there are no Valleys Communities impact associated with this report impacts will be identified as part of the development of the Strategy.

Workforce Impact

11. There are no workforce impacts associated with this report.

Legal Impact

12. This report deals with the Council's duty to comply with Welsh Language Standard 146 (Promotion).

Risk Management

13. Failure to comply with the standards could lead to a £5,000 fine per standard. There is also a risk of damage to the Council's reputation.

Consultation

14. There is no requirement for external consultation on this report.

Recommendations

15. Members support the establishment of a Scrutiny Task and Finish Group to review the current Welsh Language Promotion Strategy.

16. The Head of Democratic Services is given delegated authority to arrange and facilitate the establishment of a Welsh Language Promotion Strategy Task and Finish Group as detailed in the circulated report.

Reason for Proposed Decision

17. To ensure the Council meets the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards.

Implementation of Decision

18. The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in.

Appendices

19. There are none.

List of Background Papers

20. Welsh Language Promotion Strategy and action plan

Officer Contact

21. Sheenagh Rees, Head of People & Organisational Development Tel: 01639 763315 or e-mail: s.rees5@npt.gov.uk
22. Rhian Headon, Corporate Policy Officer Equalities and Welsh Language Tel: 01639 763010 or e-mail: r.headon@npt.gov.uk