



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

5th April 2023

Report of the Head of People and Organisational Development – Mrs Sheenagh Rees

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

All Wards

Draft Welsh Language Promotion Strategy

Purpose of the Report:

1. To provide Cabinet with the draft Welsh Language Promotion Strategy as reviewed by the Welsh Language Task and Finish Group and to seek approval from Cabinet to undertake consultation for a 4 week period.

Executive Summary:

2. The report details the work of the Task and Finish Group (Appendix 1) carried out by members of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee in producing the revised Welsh Language Promotion Strategy (attached at Appendix 2).

3. The Strategy has been developed and has taken into account a number of factors:
 - a. a review of the current strategy (attached at Appendix 2),
 - b. the advice and support of Menter Iaith Castell-nedd Port Talbot,
 - c. consideration of the content of current and proposed strategies and plans.
4. The action plan contained within the Strategy includes 'potential actions' that have already been identified which is believed will help to realise the vision.

Background:

5. Welsh Language Standard 145 (Promotion) 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 Welsh Language more widely in their area.
6. The Council's first five year Welsh Language Promotion Strategy was developed by the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy Task and Finish Group which was produced and endorsed by Council in 2018.
7. It was agreed at Cabinet on 19 October 2022 to re-establish the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy Task and Finish Group in order to develop the second Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2023-2028 (attached at Appendix 2). An evaluation of the initial strategy had been undertaken and formed part of the Task and Finish Group's considerations during the development of the revised Strategy. The evaluation report can be found at Appendix 3.

Financial Impacts:

8. It is proposed that the strategic themes in the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy will be met within budgets, with additional external funding sought whenever possible.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

9. A first stage impact assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The first stage impact assessment has indicated that a more in-depth assessment was required.
10. It is essential that Members read the Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA), which is attached to the report at Appendix 4, for the purposes of the meeting.
11. The IIA will be revisited in light of responses to the consultation and a revised impact assessment will accompany the final decision report in due course.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

12. Implementation of the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy will contribute to enhancing projects supporting the valley communities.

Workforce Impacts:

13. There are no direct implications associated with this report, however, if the recommendations are agreed and taken forward there potentially could be workforce impacts.

Legal Impacts:

14. There are no legal impacts associated with this report however, the Council has a duty to develop and implement a Welsh Language Promotion Strategy.

Risk Management Impacts:

15. There are no direct risk management impacts associated with the report however, there may be a reputational as well as financial risk

to the Council for failure to comply with the Welsh Language Standards.

Consultation:

16. The recommendations included in the report are looking for permission to consult on the draft Welsh Language Promotion Strategy.

Recommendations:

17. That the Cabinet approves the following recommendations:
 - a. That approval be granted for a public consultation on the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy (attached at Appendix 2) for a 4 week period.
 - b. The Consultation responses are considered by the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy Task and Finish Group and the final Welsh Language Promotion Strategy be proposed to Cabinet for approval following this.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

18. To ensure that Neath Port Talbot complies with the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards (No 1) Regulations 2015.

Implementation of Decision:

19. The decisions are proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

Appendices:

20. Appendix 1 – Welsh Language Promotion Strategy Task & Finish Report
21. Appendix 2 - Draft Welsh Language Promotion Strategy

22. Appendix 3 - Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2018-2022 - Evaluation Report
23. Appendix 4 - Welsh Language Promotion Strategy Integrated Impact Assessment

List of Background Papers:

24. Not Applicable

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