



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet Scrutiny Committee

28th June 2023

Report of the Chair of the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy Task and Finish Group

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

All Wards

To consider the recommendations of the Task & Finish Group to review the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy in Neath Port Talbot

Purpose of the Report:

1. To commend the report of the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy Task and Finish Group on the draft Welsh Language Promotion Strategy to Cabinet.

Executive Summary:

2. The report highlights the review points considered by the Task and Finish Group carried out by members of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee. The Welsh Language Promotion Strategy Task & Finish Report is attached at Appendix 1.

Background:

3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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, which is enclosed at Appendix 2. An evaluation of the initial strategy had been undertaken and the report formed part of the Task and Finish Group's considerations during the development of the revised Strategy.
6. A consultation was carried out on the draft strategy and the responses to the consultation were presented to the Task & Finish Group. The consultation response can be found at Appendix 3.

Financial Impacts:

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

Integrated Impact Assessment:

8. 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.

9. The IIA was reconsidered in light of responses to the consultation and a revised impact assessment is attached at Appendix 4.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

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

Workforce Impacts:

11. 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:

12. 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:

13. 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:

14. Following agreement for permission to consult at Cabinet on 5th April 2023, a 4 week consultation has took place. The responses from the consultation were used to inform the reviewed strategy.

Recommendations:

15. That the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee commends the findings of the Task and Finish Group (Appendix 1) as well as the amended Welsh Language Promotion Strategy (Appendix 2) to Cabinet, subject to any amendments made at today's meeting.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

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

Implementation of Decision:

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

Appendices:

18. Appendix 1 – Welsh Language Promotion Strategy Task & Finish Report
19. Appendix 2 - Draft Welsh Language Promotion Strategy
20. Appendix 3 – Consultation Response Report
21. Appendix 4 - Welsh Language Promotion Strategy Integrated Impact Assessment

List of Background Papers:

22. Not Applicable

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