

Scrutiny Report



Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Part 1

Date: January 2021

Subject **Draft 5 Year Welsh Language Strategy**

Author Connected Communities Manager

The following people have been invited to attend for this item:

Invitee:	Area / Role / Subject	Page Numbers
Rhys Cornwall, Head of People and Business Change	Strategic Director	
Heather Powell, Connected Communities Manager	Report Author	
Hywel Jones, Welsh Language Policy Officer	Report Author	

Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

1 Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is asked to consider:

1. Whether the Strategy reflects the council's ongoing commitment to the Welsh language effectively and focuses on appropriate areas for development
2. Whether it wishes to provide comment and recommendations on the draft Strategy to Cabinet

2 Context

Background

- 2.1 The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 established a legal framework to impose duties on certain organisations to comply with standards in relation to the Welsh language by way of sub-legislation (Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015).
- 2.2 The Standards issued to Newport City Council are listed in 'The Newport City Council Compliance Notice – Section 44 Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011'. Standard 145 (below)

requires the Council to produce and publish a five-year strategy setting out how we will promote and facilitate the use of Welsh:

- 2.3 “You must produce, and publish on your website, a 5-year strategy that sets out how you propose to promote the Welsh language and to facilitate the use of the Welsh language more widely in your area; and the strategy must include (amongst other matters)
- (a) a target (in terms of the percentage of speakers in your area) for increasing or maintaining the number of Welsh speakers in your area by the end of the 5 year period concerned,
 - (b) a statement setting out how you intend to reach that target; and you must review the strategy and publish a revised version on your website within 5 years of publishing a strategy (or of publishing a revised strategy)”
- 2.4 The Strategy includes targets to increase the number of Welsh speakers within Newport which are aligned to those 5 year targets set in our Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP). The WESP will be presented to Cabinet in January before being shared with Welsh Government for agreement by September 2022.
- 2.5 The Strategy introduces the council’s wider vision for Welsh language in Newport – ‘See, Hear, Learn, Use, Love’ and includes actions aside from Education-focussed work to promote and facilitate the Welsh language across Newport. These actions are organised into 3 strategic themes – Communities and Culture, Education and Employment and Skills.

Previous Consideration of this item

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee has not considered the Welsh Language 5 Year Strategy previously.

3 Information Submitted to the Committee

- 3.1 Attached at Appendix 1 is the draft Welsh Language 5 Year Strategy.

4. Suggested Areas of Focus

The role of the Committee in considering the report is to:

- Consider and make comment on the Vision for Welsh Language in the Strategy and the 3 strategic areas that underpin delivery of this vision
- Determine whether the actions set out are relevant to those areas and achievable within the 5 year timeframe
- Conclusions:
 - What was the overall conclusion on the information contained within the report?
 - Is the Committee satisfied that it has had all of the relevant information to base a conclusion on the quality of the Strategy
 - Do any areas require a more in-depth review by the Committee?
 - Do the Committee wish to make any Comments / Recommendations to the Cabinet?

Suggested Lines of Enquiry

- 4.1 The Committee may wish to consider:
- How progress against the Strategy will be monitored
 - How public and stakeholder consultation has informed the Strategy
 - Whether all stakeholders are effectively engaged effectively to deliver the action plan

Section B – Supporting Information

5 Supporting Information

- 5.1 [Newport's Welsh Language Standards](#)
[Newport's draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan](#)

6 Links to Council Policies and Priorities

The Welsh Language Strategy and its strategic themes are deliberately aligned with Newport's wellbeing objectives, to build cohesive and sustainable communities, and to improve skills, education and employment opportunities.

The Strategy also supports the council's vision for a modernised workforce as set out in the Corporate Plan, by maximising opportunities to develop our Welsh speaking workforce.

The Strategy explicitly contributes to Welsh Government's Strategy, [Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers](#) which sets out a vision for achieving 1 million Welsh speakers by the year 2050:

7 Impact Assessment:

7.1 Summary of impact – Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act

A full Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment (FEIA) has been undertaken on the Welsh Language Strategy. The key themes and actions that underpin them balance short term needs with the delivery of medium to long-term solutions over the course of the 5 year timescale, and were developed in consultation with internal and external stakeholders, including communities across Newport.

The Strategy identifies key challenges for the Welsh language in Newport, for example, employment and skills gaps, low conversion rates for Welsh learners moving from pre-school to primary school environments, and the perceived lack of visibility of the language across the city. The Strategy sets out how work will develop to prevent these problems from getting worse, and the resources/partnership work which enable this work to happen.

The Strategy is dependent on effective partnership work and contributes to the Wellbeing Goals of a prosperous Wales, a more equal Wales, a Wales of cohesive communities and a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language.

7.2 Summary of impact – Equality Act 2010

The FEIA undertaken on the Welsh Language Strategy identifies positive impacts for people that share Protected Characteristics of age, race and disability. There were no negative impacts identified. There are particular positive impacts identified for pre-school and school aged children

as a result of the Strategy's Education theme, and for ethnic minority communities who are prioritised for engagement within the Strategy.

7.3 **Summary of impact – Socio-economic Duty**

The Strategy has been identified as supporting the reduction of inequalities that may arise as a result of socio-economic disadvantage in the areas of work, participation and education. These areas directly relate to the key themes in the Strategy – Employment and Skills, Communities and Culture and Education.

The Strategy sets out a commitment to reach out to communities who may not traditionally engage with the Welsh language, including ethnic minority communities, refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, and those communities in Pillgwenlly, one of the most deprived areas in Newport. This commitment will help to ensure that the Welsh language is accessible to all, and everyone is offered an opportunity to lever the social, economic and educational benefits that it can offer.

7.4 **Summary of impact – Welsh language**

As this is a Welsh Language Strategy, a range of positive impacts have been identified for the Welsh language:

- Increasing and raising awareness of the Welsh language across all of Newport's diverse communities, ensuring it is inclusive and accessible to all
- Increasing the visibility of the Welsh language across Newport in community settings
- Encouraging partnership working and consistency between stakeholders in terms of the Welsh language in the workplace and potentially increase economic opportunities
- Ensuring communities in Newport are aware of the culture and history of Newport concerning the Welsh language and its importance in modern life; developing a sense of place and ownership,
- Increasing partnership work with stakeholders to develop shared learning, resources, and opportunities,
- Inspiring children and pupils to learn and use the language both in and out of school, as well as support or encourage parents/caregivers to invest in the language

8. **Background Papers**

- [The Essentials - Wellbeing of Future Generation Act \(Wales\)](#)
- [Socio-economic Duty Guidance](#)
- [Public Sector Equality Duty](#)

Report Completed: 12th January 2022