

Panel Ymgynghorol yr Iaith Gymraeg

Welsh Language Advisory Panel

**Friday, 18 March 2016 at 1pm
Democratic Services Conference Room,
County Hall, Carmarthen**

MINUTES & ACTION POINTS

Present:

Name:		Group / post:
Cllr. Mair Stephens	MS	Executive Board Member (Chair)
Cllr. Cefin Campbell	CC	Plaid Cymru (Vice-chair)
Cllr. Ryan Bartlett	RT	Labour
Cllr. Deryk Cundy	DC	Labour
Cllr. Peter Hughes Griffiths	PHG	Plaid Cymru
Cllr. Gwyn Hopkins	GH	Plaid Cymru
Cllr. Joseph Davies	JD	Independent
Officers		
Gwyneth Ayers	GA	Policy & Partnership Manager
Llinos Evans	LIE	Policy & Partnership Officer
Myfanwy Jones	MJ	Welsh language Policy Officer
Bethan James	BJ	Welsh language Development Officer
Jamie Davies	JD	Modern Apprentice

Item	Discussion and action points:	Responsible:
1.	Welcome and apologies Councillor Mair Stephens welcomed everyone to the meeting and especially Jamie Davies, one of the council's Modern Apprentices, who was shadowing Cllr. Mair. Apologies were received from Cllr Calum Higgins, Cllr Hugh Richards, Cllr Edward Thomas and Wendy Walters.	
2.	Minutes from the last meeting The minutes were accepted as a true record. Members asked whether any progress has been made in working with Local Councils in terms of TAN 20. It was noted that this suggestion was to be	

	<p>included in response to the consultation.</p> <p>Members asked for information regarding the meeting held between the Councillors with responsibility for the Welsh language and Meri Huws (organised by the WLGA). There were a couple of key themes arising during the day; namely the timetable, IT systems and the support to organisations as previously provided by the Welsh Language Board. The Government is considering this.</p> <p>It was noted that the Council had received a letter from the Commissioner to confirm that the Council's application to challenge three of the Standards is valid. However, there appears to be further steps in the process and no final decision has been made.</p>	
3.	<p>Promotion strategy</p> <p>MJ explained that the Council needs to prepare a Promotion Strategy in compliance with Standard 145 and Standard 146.</p> <p>Background: The County Forum suggested a 5 year projection of the Panel's recommendations as a basis for the Promotion Strategy. The panel agreed that the action/business plans of the Organisations who work to promote the Language across the county should provide a basis. MJ presented a discussion document that attempted to summarise the current efforts of the Council and its partners and set a clear direction for the Strategy.</p> <p>Summary: 1) Background: The current situation in Carmarthenshire, and the work that is already happening</p> <p>2) Statistical basis</p> <p>3) Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Increase the numbers of those who acquire basic Welsh language skills; ii. Increase the numbers of those who acquire further skills and gain confidence; iii. Increase the use of the Welsh language (and therefore linguistic fluency and confidence) in the community, in the workplace, around the school, in festivals, in businesses and in using public services; iv. Increase the numbers of those who are able to speak Welsh and increase the use of Welsh in specific geographical areas, either because they offer potential for development or because they give cause to concerns about the situation of the language. <p>4) The organisations and projects that contribute towards the above objectives</p> <p>5) Measuring effect, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Numbers partaking in above activity, per geographical area, per community 	

	<p>of interest,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How many Welsh speakers per region from the '2011 Census: The Welsh Language in Carmarthenshire' Report, - 2021 census report, - Statistics of oral-literacy gap skills from above report, - How much use and fluency from the survey, 'The Use of Welsh in Wales 2013-15', level of fluency, how often, where and with whom, - Education figures: skills acquisition – Welsh medium education in Foundation phase, - Education figures: transferring from Primary to Secondary - Education figures: between key stages - New research to assess the effect of specific projects (e.g. the above geographical project from the County forum, - National Welsh Survey (for annual comparison). <p>Comments: The need to measure where we are now was highlighted, and that the data needs to be accurate.</p> <p>Concerns were raised about the Commissioner's intention to place the responsibility of the Welsh language in the county on the County Council. MJ noted that Standard 145 places the duty on the council to lead, set a clear direction and facilitate. The importance of setting realistic targets was also underlined, to ensure that the Council is not bound to 'fail' in the context of the percentage of Welsh speakers in the county.</p> <p>It was agreed that the draft is a strong foundation to build on.</p> <p>MS noted that the Promotion Strategy should include other public bodies within the county, including those who form the Public Services Board.</p> <p>It was agreed to reference 'Y Lle' in addition to 'Yr Atom'.</p> <p>Members suggested that further information be included on the foundation that already exists as a result of the work and recommendations of the 'Census Working Group'.</p> <p>The four objectives were agreed; however it was noted that language planners identify language transmission in the home and education in schools as crucial.</p> <p>It was suggested that there is a lack of joint planning between the language planning organisations and that there is a need for more coordination with a focus on the agreed geographical priorities.</p> <p>It was agreed to add a fifth objective in relation to 'Marketing and promoting the Welsh language'. The objective includes promoting bilingual education and</p>	
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	<p>encouraging incomers to learn Welsh. Reference was also made to the 'Language Charter' to promote greater use of Welsh among children of primary school age.</p> <p>It was noted that it is difficult to include all organisations, including the Eisteddfodau, Cylchoedd Cinio, WI etc.</p> <p>A suggestion was made to add the national policy context and to refer specifically to 'A living language: a language for living – Moving Ahead'.</p> <p>It was agreed to Include Nursery Groups and private nurseries.</p> <p>It was noted that the Public Services Board and County Forum could contribute information to populate the tables, including local projects that take place in their areas.</p> <p>It was agreed that more reference to the 'Egin' should be made in the Strategy.</p> <p>Following a query, it was explained that the Menterau had selected the priority geographical areas in accordance with the Census statistics.</p> <p>Reference was made to the lack of Welsh medium after school provision in parts of the county.</p> <p>It was noted that the 5 year target for the strategy may be to reduce the decline rather than increase the number of Welsh speakers.</p> <p>It was also agreed to refer to the LDP.</p>	
4.	<p>Policy on using Welsh internally</p> <p>It was noted that the Staff Forum had discussed the policy on using Welsh internally and that they had suggested that the policy should re affirm the Council's principles and expectations.</p> <p>The policy team will work on a draft policy and build on its content over time.</p> <p>It was agreed to discuss the policy at the next meeting of the Panel.</p>	Policy team
5.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>It was noted that the Language Skills Audit will be circulated next week.</p> <p>Members noted that a timetable for the recommendations from the Census Working Group needs to be discussed. This will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.</p>	Policy team
6.	<p>Date of the next meeting</p> <p>It was agreed to circulate the date of the next meeting as soon as possible.</p>	Policy team