

Panel Ymgynghorol yr Iaith Gymraeg

Welsh Language Advisory Panel

8 July 2024 at 2pm

Microsoft Teams

MINTUES AND ACTION POINTS

Present:

Cllr. Glynog Davies	GD	Plaid Cymru (Chair)
Cllr. Carys Jones	CJ	Plaid Cymru
Cllr. Peter Hughes Griffiths	PHG	Plaid Cymru
Cllr. Jean Lewis	JL	Plaid Cymru
Cllr. Tina Higgins	TH	Labour
Cllr. Sue Allen	SU	Independent
Officers		
Gwyneth Ayres	GA	Corporate Policy and Partnership Manager
Llinos Evans	LLE	Policy and Involvement Manager
Sioned Raymond	SR	Graduate Policy Officer
Kelly Morris	KM	Learning and Development Officer

Num ber	Text and action points	In charge
1.	Welcome and Apologies The chair, Councilor Glynog Davies, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Paul Thomas, Councillor Kevin Madge and Councillor Andrew Davies.	
2.	Report regarding changes to name of wards and houses Unfortunately, no one from the Housing Department was able to attend the meeting. A short report was prepared in advance and circulated to the members. Comments were received from Councillor Carys Jones regarding the council's enforcement powers when a developer gives a marketing name to an estate of new houses. Llinos Evans explained that it was dependent on the status of the development. It was agreed that Cllr. Carys and Llinos have another conversation before reporting back to Rhodri Griffiths.	CJ/LLE

3.	<p>Operating Bilingually</p> <p>Councillor G.D welcomed Kelly Morris to the meeting to give a presentation on Welsh for Councillors.</p> <p>The intention of the presentation was to explain the opportunities available to Carmarthenshire Councillors and how the Councillors can chair meetings bilingually. Courses run from level 1-4. It was explained that there are many more opportunities with level 4 and above courses. These courses are external and both formal and informal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Working Welsh • Building Confidence • Improve your Welsh • Speaking plan <p>Through Microsoft a Form was prepared by Kelly which will be circulated to the members so that they can express interest in the Learning Welsh courses. A tutor has been appointed who will start in September / October in order to carry out the lessons. There are many positives about these courses including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tailored to your needs • Councillors learn together • A mix of face-to-face and virtual • Raise confidence • Resources and support in Learning Welsh <p>The requirements for the courses are 80% attendance and commitment from the Councillors.</p> <p>Comments were received from Councillor G.D where he noted how nice it was to see the flexibility for the learning and that all the Councillors could do it together. Councillor G.D also added that it was a good idea to share the form with all Councillors within the Council in order to encourage as many of them as possible to learn the language.</p> <p>Councillor CJ emphasized how nice it would be to give Councillors the confidence to use the Language.</p> <p>The second part of the presentation focused on chairing meetings Bilingually after Kelly attended a session with the Learning Centre. The main message that came from the session is the need to normalize the Welsh language.</p> <p>The main reasons people do not use Welsh in meetings are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conventions of language use • Language status • Low expectations • Lack of understanding in terms of Translation 	
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	<p>The role of the chair was specifically looked at. There are a number of things the chair can do bilingually such as welcoming everyone to the meeting, reminding everyone that it is a bilingual meeting, encouraging everyone to use Welsh if possible, bilingual resources to name a few.</p> <p>It is important to chair as much of the meeting through the medium of Welsh. Although it was underlined that it was a role for everyone, not just the chair. It is an opportunity for everyone to improve their skills and build confidence in using Welsh.</p> <p>By chairing bilingually, the chair is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recognising the Welsh language - Being inclusive - Encourage others to use it - Facilitating understanding - Show sensitivity towards the culture of both languages. <p>The centre uses the positive circle below to show the aim.</p> <div data-bbox="365 831 1254 1332" data-label="Diagram"> <p>The diagram is a circular flow chart with four stages connected by curved arrows in a clockwise direction. The stages are: 'Defnydd Use' (Use) at the top, 'Rhuglder Fluency' (Fluency) on the right, 'Hyder Confidence' (Confidence) on the left, and 'Defnydd Use' (Use) at the bottom. The title 'Cylch Cadarnhaol' (Positive Cycle) is on the left, and 'Positive Cycle' is on the right. At the bottom right, there is a small logo for 'dysgucymraeg.cymru' and 'learnwelsh.cymru'.</p> </div> <p>Councillor Jean Lewis made a comment regarding papers for meetings. It was noted that in many cases the agenda and documents are not available bilingually. Gwyneth Ayres explained that it is necessary to use a Welsh interface on Mod.gov so that the documents appear in Welsh first. Llinos Evans added that it is not possible to upload bilingual documents on Mod.gov and that it must be submitted separately.</p> <p>Councillor Peter Hughes Griffiths raised a question regarding simultaneous interpretation. GA explained that it has developed a lot of the past few years but isn't always 100% correct. It was explained to members that any reports or papers should be sent to the Translation unit for checking.</p> <p>A request was made from Councillor JL to demonstrate how it is possible to access the Welsh interface on Mod.gov and the simultaneous translation. It was agreed to send the Councillors a link on machine translation and how it can be used.</p> <p>Councillor G.D thanked Kelly Morris for her thorough presentation.</p>	
4.	Welsh Government Grant Update	

An update was received from Gwyneth Ayres following a grant from the Welsh Government. Additional revenue funding worth £1 million is proposed for 2024-25 for the Welsh language - which is linked to CC commitment number 36 and is part of support to understand and pilot interventions in response to the results of the 2021 Welsh Language Census in Carmarthenshire.

This additional funding could be given to work in partnership with others to protect and grow the language in communities which is essential to their future.

Following discussions with Welsh Government officials and a letter of offer from the Welsh Local Government Association, Carmarthenshire's share is stated as follows:

Grant	Allocation
Carmarthenshire (half of this funding is dependent on the outcome of a feasibility study for a new centre in the Amman Valley area). The Welsh Government is responsible for managing the project from this study (with input from the Council and its budget is not included within the £300,000 allocation). Expenditure would need to be secured by the end of March 2025.	£295,100 (£300,000 minus WLGA administration charge £4,900).

Therefore, with the £150,000 earmarked towards the outcome of a feasibility study for a new centre in the Amman Valley area and £4,900 from an administration fee to the WLGA Carmarthenshire has £145,100 to earmark.

Our proposals for spending in Carmarthenshire have been developed on the basis of making progress against the objectives of our Promotion Strategy 2023-28 which takes into account the results of the 2021 Census, requirements in terms of Welsh Language Standards and the Well-being of Generations Act through the Carmarthenshire Well-being Plan 2023-28.

Below is a summary of Carmarthenshire's projects.

Carmarthenshire’s Projects

1. Offer practical, specialist support for schools to move along the linguistic continuum, specifically in the areas below, and in accordance with the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan:
 - a. Llanelli (primary and secondary - Coedcae Cluster)
 - b. Amman Valley (primary and secondary)
 - c. Tâf/Myrddin**£20,000**
2. Carry out a feasibility study to host a Carmarthenshire music/rock festival (to be planned by Summer 2025)
£12,500

	<p>3. Welsh / bilingual music sessions in pubs / halls / community venues across the county - in collaboration with the local language initiatives £30,000</p> <p>4. Specialist support to support the education department as they administer more in Welsh - support in terms of changing practices and practical steps to facilitate the use of more Welsh in their day-to-day work £15,100</p> <p>5. Expert support for the Council's People Management Team with further development of the Council's Internal Use of Welsh Policy and the Future Workforce Strategy with a specific focus on Welsh-medium Apprenticeships and Graduates through the Carmarthenshire Public Services Board. £20,000</p> <p>6. Create a financial fund to empower high priority communities to develop projects that respond to the results of the 2021 Census - in collaboration with the local language initiatives. £30,000</p> <p>7. Housing developments - a study to look at patterns and impact on the communities of the county where housing developments are seen and the further link this has on the further house sales chain within the county. £12,500</p>	
5.	<p>Minutes from previous meeting</p> <p>It was agreed they were an accurate record.</p> <p>Councillor PHG accepted the minutes and Councillor CJ seconded this.</p>	
6.	<p>Any other mater</p> <p>No other issues were raised.</p>	
7.	<p>Future Meetings</p> <p>- 21 October 2024</p>	