

Panel Ymgynghorol yr Iaith Gymraeg

Welsh Language Advisory Panel

20 January 2025 at 10am

Multi-Location Meeting

MINTUES AND ACTION POINTS

Present:

Cllr. Glynog Davies	GD	Plaid Cymru
Cllr. Peter Hughes Griffiths	PHG	Plaid Cymru
Cllr. Jean Lewis	JL	Plaid Cymru
Cllr. Sue Allen	SU	Independent
Cllr. Tina Higgins	TH	Labour
Officers		
Llinos Evans	LLE	Policy and Involvement Manager
Sioned Raymond	SR	Policy and Partnership Officer
Catrin Llwyd	CLL	Language Planning Consultant and Translator
Aled Eynon	AE	Translator

Num ber	Text and action points	In charge
1.	Welcome and Apologies Councillor Glynog Davies welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Councillor Kevin Madge, Councillor Andrew Davies, Councillor Carys Jones and Gwyneth Ayres.	
2.	Project BRO – Catrin Llwyd Councillor Glynog Davies welcomed Catrin Llwyd to the meeting who is a Language Planning Consultant and Translator for the University of Trinity Saint David. Catrin was invited to the meeting to give an overview of what has research has been done through the Project BRO. Project BRO is a Comprehensive Sociolinguistic Survey of Contemporary Welsh Communities that has been funded by ARFOR. It is a joint project between the University of Trinity Saint David, the University of the Highlands and Islands and the University of Oxford with the support of the Welsh Government. The project's purposeful Methodological Combination was explained: Module 1: Analysing Census Data Module 2: Early Years	

	<p>Module 3: Communities</p> <p>Module 4: Ethnographic - workplaces and workforces; public spaces; young people</p> <p>Module 5: Ideology and Policy Framework</p> <p>The areas that have been targeted are the ARFOR areas which are Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Gwynedd and Anglesey. Two areas in Carmarthenshire were selected for the survey - Chwarter Bach in Brynmanan and Llanddarog. It was emphasized that the welcome they have received in these areas has been incredible and very positive. They have worked very closely with the Mentrau, specifically Menter Cwm Gwendraeth Elli in the Llanddarog area and Menter Dinefwr in the Brynmanan area.</p> <p>The surveys are currently ongoing across the Counties in Wales and following the research the results will be shared.</p> <p>We moved on to discuss another element of the BRO's project work which is Workplace Language, Workforce Language. Most of this work has now ended, although they have recently received confirmation that the work has been extended. Further work will be done in partnership with the Council in some of our workplaces.</p> <p><u>Analysing Language Use in Workplaces</u></p> <p>Step 1 - Data: Area or Catchment Profile</p> <p>Step 2 - Landscape and Linguistic Background</p> <p>Step 3 – Observe</p> <p>Step 4 - Ideologies, Potential and Obstacles</p> <p>CLL explained the reality of doing research with workplaces and some challenges faced including busy workplaces, anxiety/uncertainty, access and internal administration. In order to overcome these challenges and considerations they have been flexible, ensuring confidentiality and persistence / offering flexibility.</p> <p>To end the presentation Catrin Llwyd thanked the Council for their willingness to work together and we look forward to continuing the work in the near future. She added that they are looking forward to being part of the conversation again when the results have been shared.</p> <p>Councillor Glynog Davies thanked Catrin for her interesting and thorough presentation.</p> <p>A question was received from Councillor Peter Hughes Griffiths after he emphasized how vital and wonderful the work that has taken place is. He asked what will happen when the research ends. Catrin explained that a large public report will be shared which will include recommendations, and they will continue to keep in contact with the Council and the Town Communities.</p> <p>Councillor Jean Lewis asked what is happening to these areas that have low numbers of Welsh speakers and what work we can do to restore and strengthen the language. Catrin explained that the project's methodology is to focus on the strongest areas in order to get the best results. By focusing on the strongest it outlines the potential for these areas.</p>	
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3.	<p>An updated was provided on the Welsh Government collaboration agreement projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation has been received from the Welsh Local Government Association that the project timetable has been extended up to 31 August 2025. • You will also remember that there is a second round of funding put in reserve for the results of the feasibility study of the Language Centre in the Amman valley. Following the completion of that report, an additional £135,000 has been released to us here in Carmarthenshire but also to be spent by the end of August. • We have been discussing with the Welsh Government and the Association regarding the second round of projects and we will be doing work on piloting the CEFR framework in the Amman Valley area, in order to prepare for the presentation of the Education and Welsh Language Bill. There will also be projects regarding the use of the Welsh language in sports clubs in the county, linked to the focus sports that the Leisure division has. • There will be a project to look at fostering the ability to promote Welsh language education through the behavioural sciences in place across the counties of Powys, Neath, Swansea and Sir Gar, with the Claremont Communications company leading on that. • In terms of the projects that are in the first round, good progress is being made across all areas. The pilot work at Ysgol Uwchradd Emlyn to release staff for an intensive period to learn Welsh has started and the Excellence Centre is providing for us. • I hope you will have seen the Mentrau Iaith advertising community music festivals recently - the feedback for the initial ones has been very positive with good audiences attending. • The feasibility study for a Musical Festival in the county is about to start, with Mentrau Iaith leading on that. There will be a site visit to Pembrey Country Park on 4 February in order to discuss infrastructure and to meet with the staff who usually facilitate events there. • The initial workshop Leading in a Bilingual Country has been held with the Directors and Heads of Service. Hugh Irwin's company held this workshop, and the feedback has been very positive. We are currently organizing a series of dates for the Cabinet Members, Directors and Third Tier Managers. • Cwmni Iaith has received the tender to carry out research on Planning and the Welsh language, so that we can try to understand the correlation between planning and land use, and changes in terms of the demographics of the Welsh language. We will look at strategic sites in the county and draw up a questionnaire to share with developers and housing auctioneers. This work will be completed by the end of March. 	
4.	<p>Minutes from previous meeting</p> <p>It was noted that Councillor Glynog Davies had sent an apology for the last meeting.</p> <p>Councillor Sue Allen proposed that they were a correct record and Councillor Jean Lewis seconded.</p>	

5.	<p>Any other matter</p> <p>The members were asked for any ideas and suggestions of what they wish to focus on in our meetings over the coming months.</p> <p>Following the presentation of a report prepared by the Council's Data and Performance Team on the results of the Welsh Language census 2021 results, members noted that it would be useful to have a member of the team come to the next meeting to present and talk about the main points. As a result, it will be possible to identify what we can do as a Panel in response.</p> <p>Focusing on new housing estates and the people who live in them was also mentioned. Members felt that we are not looking at this sufficiently or recognizing the impact. Councillor Tina Higgins asked the question about whether the people who move into our areas attend Welsh classes in order to try to learn and restore the language.</p> <p><i>Date of next meeting: 7th May, 2025</i></p>	
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