

Panel Ymgynghorol yr Iaith Gymraeg

Welsh Language Advisory Panel

21 October 2024 at 10am

Microsoft Teams

MINTUES AND ACTION POINTS

Present:

Cllr. Carys Jones	CJ	Plaid Cymru
Cllr. Peter Hughes Griffiths	PHG	Plaid Cymru
Cllr. Jean Lewis	JL	Plaid Cymru
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
Osian Llywelyn	OLL	Welsh Language Commissioner Office
Catrin Gough	CG	Welsh Language Commissioner Office

Num ber	Text and action points	In charge
1.	Welcome and Apologies Councilor Carys Jones welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Councilor Tina Higgins and Councilor Andrew Davies.	
2.	Regulatory Framework – Welsh Language Commissioner Office Osian Llywelyn and Catrin Gough from the Commissioner’s Office were welcomed to the meeting. OLI provided an overview on the work that has been done since early 2024 on the co-regulation. It was explained to members that the co-regulation is about involving and engaging more effectively with organisations that they regulate with. It was emphasised on the need to share information, offer clear support and guidance alongside encourage an open and transparent culture. Work has taken place in order to support co-regulation which is setting regulatory outcomes. At the start of the year, the Commissioner advised their intention to develop and set regulatory outcomes during 2024. Their intention in presenting these regulatory outcomes is that they, amongst other factors: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ place the Welsh language standards and our regulatory work within the context of a national vision to increase the number of Welsh speakers and to increase the use of the language	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ provide clear and transparent public statements on what we are aiming to achieve, and how we will demonstrate that they have been achieved ○ encourage organisations to have the correct balance between compliance and ensuring good results for Welsh language users <p>Following a period of engagement, they have now appointed 6 outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organisations with the capacity to deliver high-quality Welsh language services at all times. 2. Welsh language users to have an understanding and awareness of the Welsh language services available to them. 3. Organisations give due regard to the potential impacts of their policy decisions on the Welsh language. 4. Organisations increase the use of the Welsh in their workplace, enabling staff to work in Welsh on a day-to-day basis. 5. Organisations promote the Welsh language so that people can use the language naturally in their daily lives. 6. Organisations protect and promote the interests of the Welsh language users by having effective governance and complaints arrangements. <p>The Enforcement Policy was discussed next which outlines how the Commissioner deals with complaints. They have adopted an approach to co-regulation and set a series of regulatory outcomes. One of the key themes in embedding this approach is “Facilitate out investigation and enforcement work”.</p> <p>The Commissioner intends to engage with Carmarthenshire County Council in November 2024, over an 8-week period. They are eager to receive comments and opinions from the authority. Following the engagement period, the intention is to present the revised policy for Welsh Ministerial approval in early 2025.</p> <p>To conclude the presentation an overview of the next steps was provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue the compliance promotion programme for 2024/25. • Amending the Regulatory Framework. • Develop a new Compliance Promotion Plan for the period of the next strategic plan. • New Monitoring Arrangements in place from April 2025. <p>Councillor Carys Jones thanked Osian for his thorough presentation.</p> <p>A question was received from Councillor Peter Hughes Griffiths in terms of how the Commissioner deals with the differences between organisations, specifically other Local Authorities in Wales. Osian explained that the regulation is based on risk from institution to institution. He emphasized that it varies depending on where organisations are in the context of how much support and advice they need to comply.</p> <p>Gwyneth Ayres reinforced Councillor PHG's point by noting the problem of reconciliation and the intention to do so. Osian explained that there is going to be an effort to harmonise duties, although there isn't a programme in place, but a timely manner for them to look at one.</p>	
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	<p>In addition, GA underlined that as an authority we accept the Regulatory Framework. The response is now much more proportionate in terms of complaints.</p> <p>Councillor CJ asked if there are other panels such as the Welsh Language one in other Counties in Wales. Catrin Gough explained that there are similar panels and committees, but they vary by each authority.</p>	
3.	<p>2021 Census Report – The Welsh Language in Carmarthenshire</p> <p>A report was shared with members prior to the meeting which was prepared by the Council's Data Team. The report is for the use of community groups as well as members.</p> <p>Llinos Evans explained that there are some graphs and tables in the English version that are Welsh Medium ones. LLE stated that they will get in contact with the Data team and reconcile as soon as possible. Following the changes, it was agreed to share the final version with members. The aim is for the report to be published on the Council's website and send to organisations such as the Welsh Language Forum, Town and Community Councils to raise awareness of the situations following the 2021 Census results.</p> <p>Councillor Sue Allen and Peter Hughes Griffiths noted that the report is extremely valuable and detailed. A question was received from Councillor CJ in terms of a timetable for the report. LLE reiterated that all the data is publicly available and therefore members can use the data now.</p> <p>Councillor SA mentioned specifically poverty. GA explained that we will follow up on the relationship between the Welsh Language and Poverty and do further research.</p> <p>Councillor Jean Lewis raised the point in terms of the changes to the Wards which was made in 2022. It was asked if the data is based on the new boundaries or the ones before 2021. GA explained that this data is specifically based on the new wards but will do further research to confirm 100%.</p> <p>The intention now is to use the report and target the gaps which have emerged during the report.</p>	
4.	<p>Welsh Government Grant Update</p> <p>An update on Welsh Governments additional funding was received from Gwyneth Ayres.</p> <p>In the previous meeting a detailed explanation was provided to members on the additional funding and what projects have been agreed to spend the money on.</p> <p>GA provided an explanation for the progress that has been made on these projects and a brief summary is noted below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Offer practical support to specific schools in Carmarthenshire in order to move on the continuum – the tender process has taken place. Following conversations with the Education Department it was decided to redirect some of the funding so that resources could be taken advantage of through the Learning Centre. 2. Conduct a Feasibility Study to hold a Music Festival in Carmarthenshire. Have been out too tender and officers are meeting on the 30th of October to consider and discuss the application received. It was explained to members 	

	<p>that there is some interest on what we are looking to do, although it has been emphasised that we don't intent to do anything that is going to affect existing festivals, for example 'Gŵyl Canol Dre'.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Welsh / Bilingual music sessions in Pubs / Community settings – Some activity has started, and many arrangements are in place for the next few months in order to normalise Welsh music for all. 4. Support for the Education Department so they can administer more in Welsh. The department is currently going through changes following appointment of new director, Owain Lloyd. It was mentioned that there is a lot of work going on in the background and how we can pull in resources such as ARFER with Bangor University. Looking specifically at how we can provide more support working alongside Owain over the next few weeks. 5. Supporting the People Management Team with further development of the Council's Welsh Language Internal Policy. Academy Wales programme 'Arwain mewn Glwad Ddwylieithog' specifically for Heads of Service and third tier managers. 6. Empowering Communities to develop projects that respond to the 2021 census results. The Mentrau have appointed specific areas to look at with events and projects implemented until March in these areas. 7. A study on housing developments, with the Policy Team working closely with the Forward Planning Team. Need to go out for tender and the intention is to understand the logic behind the trends we are currently seeing oof people moving into houses after being built. 	
5.	<p>Minutes from previous meeting</p> <p>Councillor Jean Lewis proposed that they were an accurate record and Councillor Sue Allen seconded this.</p>	
6.	<p>Any other mater</p> <p>Members discussed their concerns regarding English Music being played at Carmarthen Market. GA explained that discussions have previously happened about the mater but agreed to follow up on the issues.</p> <p>Cllr. CJ explained that moving the date of 'Gŵyl Canol Dre' this year has had impact on other events in the County.</p> <p>Cllr. CJ asked if appeals can be made to place names which have changed once a decision has been made. LLE provided some background context and Cllr. CJ agreed to forward information on the mater to LLE.</p> <p>Following presentations and discussion at previous meeting to encourage members to attend Welsh Courses, Cllr JL asked how much interest there has been. LLE agreed to follow up with the Learning and Development Officer, Kelly Morris.</p> <p>Before concluding the meeting, GA explained the latest news that the National Eisteddfod is coming to Pembrokeshire in 2026. Discussions have been in place between Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion. The Eisteddfod will be held in Llantwd which is on the border to Carmarthenshire. The panel would like for both Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire to support with the arrangements and preparations. The Councils</p>	

	is currently seeking clarification from the Eisteddfod as to the authority's expectations. GA agree to update with further information at next meeting.	
7.	Future Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 20 January 2025 	