

Policy & Resources Scrutiny 5 OCTOBER 2016

STRATEGY TO PROMOTE THE WELSH LANGUAGE

Purpose:

The draft Strategy to promote the Welsh language has been prepared as part of the Council's responsibilities through the Welsh language Standards. The Council is required to publish the Strategy as part of the Welsh Language Standards but it has been developed in full partnership with the County's Strategic Welsh Language Forum, which includes key partners such as the Mentrau Iaith.

Recommendations / key decisions required:

- That the Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee discusses the draft Strategy and provides any comments before it is presented to the Executive Board.

Reasons:

- The County Council is required to prepare a Strategy to promote the Welsh language as part of the Welsh language Standards framework (Standard 145)

To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: YES

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr. Mair Stephens

Directorate

Name of Head of Service:

Wendy Walters

Report Author:

Llinos Evans

Designations:

Assistant Chief Executive
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee
5 October 2016

Strategy to promote the Welsh language

1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT

Carmarthenshire County Council received its Compliance Notice in relation to the Welsh language Standards in September 2016.

As part of the Standards we are required to prepare and publish a Strategy outlining how we will promote and facilitate the use of the Language in our area (standard 145).

The draft Strategy builds upon the 'Welsh language in Carmarthenshire' report approved by Council in April 2014. Many of the opportunities outlined in the draft Strategy were previously in place through the agreed recommendations.

However this Strategy provides us with an opportunity to work and share best practice with other organisations across the county through the County's Strategic Welsh Language Forum whose membership includes:

- Carmarthenshire Federation of Young Farmers
- Coleg Sir Gâr
- Cymdeithas yr Iaith
- Dyfodol i'r Iaith
- Hywel Dda University Health Board
- Mentrau Iaith
- Merched y Wawr / Clybiau Gwawr
- Mudiad Meithrin
- Welsh Government
- University of Wales Trinity St David
- Urdd
- Welsh for Adults
- Welsh language Centres (Y Lle, Llanelli and Yr Atom, Carmarthen)

The Strategy will be delivered in partnership with the Forum members with links to our Public Services Board partners being established as the action plan is developed.

Preparing and publishing a Strategy to promote the Welsh language is a statutory responsibility under the Welsh Language Measure (2011).

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

(Draft Strategy)

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: **W.S.Walters**

Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration & Policy)

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities YES	Legal YES	Finance YES	ICT NONE	Risk Management Issues NONE	Staffing Implications NONE	Physical Assets NONE
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1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The Council has a statutory responsibility to meet the Welsh language Standards, which have been placed on us as part of the Welsh Language Measure (2011).

2. Legal

The Welsh Language Standards Regulations 2015 came into force on 31 March 2015. These Regulations have replaced the responsibilities placed on Carmarthenshire County Council under the Welsh Language Act 1993 and have been imposed on the council since 31 March 2016.

3. Finance

As the Strategy is implemented, thorough consideration must be given to the potential financial implications. Further investment may be required in future to ensure progress is made.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: **W.S.Walters**

Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration & Policy)

1. Scrutiny Committee - N/A

2. Local Member(s) - N/A

3. Community / Town Council - N/A

4. Relevant Partners - N/A

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

The draft Strategy has been discussed and supported by the Council's Members Advisory Panel on the Welsh language.

The draft Strategy has been discussed and supported by the County's Strategic Welsh Language Forum.

The draft Strategy has been discussed and supported by the Corporate Management Team.

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Welsh Language Standards		http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1443477/Carmarthenshire-Welsh-Language-Standards.pdf
Welsh language in Carmarthenshire report		http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/68004/WelshLanguageCarms.pdf