

Cabinet

22 May 2023

Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2023-28

Purpose: To present the five-year Strategy to promote the Welsh language across Carmarthenshire

Recommendations / key decisions required:

1. To approve the five-year Strategy to increase the number of Welsh speakers and promote the use of the Language across Carmarthenshire.

Reasons:

It is a statutory responsibility for the Council to prepare a Welsh Language Strategy as part of the Welsh Language Standards.

Cabinet Decision Required YES (22 May 2023)

Council Decision Required NO

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr. Glynog Davies, Cabinet Member for Education and Welsh Language

Directorate: Chief Executive Name of Head of Service: Noelwyn Daniel Report Author: Myfanwy Jones	Designations: Head of ICT & Corporate Policy Welsh Language Development Officer	Tel: Email addresses: NDaniel@carmarthenshire.gov.uk MyJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cabinet

22 May 2023

Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2023-28

The Welsh Language Measure (Wales) 2011 and the subsequent Welsh Language Standards require Carmarthenshire County Council to produce and publish a 5-year strategy that sets out how we propose to promote the Welsh language and to facilitate the use of the Welsh language more widely in our area. Furthermore, we are required to assess to what extent we have followed that strategy and publish that assessment on our website.

The first Promotion Strategy was published in 2016 and ended in 2021 and, after a period of reflection and measuring its impact, a report was completed in 2022, followed by this second Strategy for 2023-28. Both Strategies and the report have been completed in conjunction with the County's Welsh Language Strategic Forum, which has been the main vehicle for its planning as well as its scrutiny.

Despite the recent, further reduction in the number and percentage of Welsh speakers in Carmarthenshire, the Strategy aims to be confident and aspirational with a vision to: *'...see an increase in the proportion of Carmarthenshire residents who can speak Welsh and use their Welsh consistently. We want to see the Welsh language as a working and operating norm in the County's public institutions and increasingly prevalent in County businesses. We want our young people to see a future for them in the County in sustainable and prosperous Welsh communities, economically, culturally and socially. We want everyone to be proud of the Welsh language in Carmarthenshire.'*

The Strategy's four main aims are to instigate:

1. An increase in the number of Welsh speakers,
2. The County's residents' pride, use and confidence in the Welsh language
3. The Welsh language as a norm in the workplace and workforce
4. Thriving Welsh speaking communities.

The actions needed to implement these aims are divided into 9 workstreams which will be the focus of the Strategy's action plan which will coincide with the five-year delivery period of the Strategy.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

Strategy to Promote the Welsh Language in Carmarthenshire 2023-28

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: Noelwyn Daniel, Head of ICT & Corporate Policy

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

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

Preparing a Welsh Language Promotion Strategy is a specific requirement under the Welsh Language Standards (Standard 145).

“A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language” is one of the seven National Well-being Goals under the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Noelwyn Daniel, Head of ICT and Corporate Policy

(Please specify the outcomes of consultations undertaken where they arise against the following headings)

1. Scrutiny Committee request for pre-determination	YES
If yes include the following information: -	
Scrutiny Committee	Education, Young People & the Welsh Language Scrutiny Committee
Date the report was considered:-	5 May 2023
Scrutiny Committee Outcome/Recommendations:- Agree to amend the wording in paragraph 5 of the Cabinet Member’s Foreword to read as follows in order to accurately reflect the vision. Amends noted in bold : The vision further voices our desire to see Welsh as the norm in all domains of life. Our desire in Carmarthenshire is not only to increase numbers and encourage use but we also want to welcome people into Welsh confidently and without apology:	

2. Local Member(s) Not applicable

3. Community / Town Council Not applicable

4. Relevant Partners The Strategy has been developed in full collaboration with partners through the Carmarthenshire Welsh Language Strategic Forum.

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations Not applicable

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED YES	Cllr. Glynog Davies – member of the Carmarthenshire Welsh Language Strategic Forum
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**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 Compliance Notice		Welsh Language Standards (Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011) Compliance Notice (gov.wales)