

CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Language Committee

Date of meeting: 15th March 2024

Title: Update on the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2024-2029

Purpose of the report: To present an update on the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2024-2029 and share the consultation timetable.

Background:

The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 established a legal framework to impose duties on certain organisations, including Ceredigion County Council to comply with standards in relation to the Welsh language.

Standard 145 places a duty on the County Council to develop and publish a 5-year strategy that explains how the Council intends to promote the Welsh language and facilitate the use of Welsh within the wider area. As part of the Strategy, it is required to set a target for maintaining or increasing the number of Welsh speakers within the area by the end of the 5 year period in question.

In line with the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards, this Strategy sets out how the Council will go about promoting the Welsh language and to facilitate wider use of Welsh within the local area, by working together with organisations that are members of the Ceredigion Bilingual Futures Language Forum. The Strategy supports the Welsh Government's vision, to create one million Welsh speakers in Wales by 2050.

Update on Ceredigion's Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2024-2029:

The current Strategy period ended in 2023 with an attainment report prepared and presented to the Language Committee. We are therefore required to prepare a new Strategy in accordance with the statutory requirements.

The new Strategy will build on the foundations laid by the 2018-23 Language Strategy and the special work done by the Council and its partners to increase the opportunities to use the Welsh language across the County.

In June 2023 a meeting was held with stakeholders and members of Bilingual Futures to discuss the 2024-29 Strategy. Following that meeting the comments and proposals were brought together as the basis for the new Strategy.

That Strategy is in the process of being refined so that the first Draft can be presented to the Language Committee at the meeting dated June 2024 (new date to be confirmed).

The initial draft has set the following goal for the new Strategy:

Increase the use of the language in all aspects of County life. Our vision is that the Welsh language and Welshness will belong to everyone in Ceredigion and will be a source of pride among all residents of the county.

In addition to making the vision a reality we set 4 strategic themes - Ceredigion is a place where it is possible to **learn, live, belong and succeed** through the medium of Welsh.

By carrying out the actions highlighted in this Strategy:

1. We want to see everyone within the County valuing the Welsh language and giving it prestige as a living community language.
2. We want to see increased use of it in all aspects of public life in the county; where residents can live, learn, belong and succeed through the medium of Welsh.
3. We want to ensure that bilingualism is promoted completely naturally, and that the Welsh language is protected so that future generations can use and enjoy it.
4. We assume that the percentage of Welsh speakers will increase by 1 percentage point from 45.3% in 2021 to 46.3% in 2029, this will lead to a further 267 Welsh speakers off the 2021 baseline.

There will be an action plan associated with each of the four themes.

Timetable:

Following the presentation of the draft document to the Language Committee in June the document will be presented to Cabinet before opening a period of public consultation during July and August 2024. The intention is to publish the final Strategy in December 2024.

Recommendation:

To approve that the document will be presented to Cabinet before opening a period of public consultation during July and August 2024.

Appendices:

Appendix 1- Ceredigion Welsh Language Promotion Strategy Consultation Timetable 2024-29

Contact Name:

Carys Lloyd-Jones

Designation:

Ceredigion County Council's Language Policy Officer

Date:

26/2/2024

Timetable for [Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2024-2029]	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Engage with the stakeholders to assess current opinion. Conduct desktop research	3/1				3/5							
Write your analysis report about the results of the engagement campaign, prepare the initial Integrated Impact Assessment, and formulate the strategy	3/1				3/5							
Present the draft strategy, the initial Integrated Impact Assessment, and the analysis report to the Scrutiny Committee						/6						
Present the strategy, analysis report and initial Integrated Impact Assessment to Cabinet. Request approval to hold a public consultation (for statutory consultations)							2/7					
Public consultation on the draft strategy							2/7		1/9			
Write a report analysing the consultation, amend the Integrated Impact Assessment if necessary and prepare the final strategy									1/09	1/10		
Present the final strategy, Integrated Impact Assessment and analysis report to the Scrutiny Committee											14/11	
Present the final strategy, the analysis report, and the Integrated Impact Assessment for Cabinet approval												3/12
Publish the final strategy on the Council's website and email it to the stakeholders and relevant Council teams												4/12

Note: It is necessary to allow at least 3 weeks for the translation of the documents in each of these phases