
BILINGUAL CARDIFF WELSH LANGUAGE STRATEGY 2017-2022

Reason for this Report

1. To offer the Committee an opportunity to familiarise itself with national policy development in respect of the Welsh language; and to contribute to the consultation on the strategic content of the Bilingual Cardiff Welsh Language Strategy 2017-2022.

Background

Welsh Language Standards

2. In 2011 the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure replaced the Welsh Language Act 1993 and as part of the new legislation, in Wales the Welsh language has equal legal status with English and must not be treated any less favourably. Public bodies are no longer required to develop and implement a Welsh Language Scheme, but must comply with a set of national Welsh Language Standards instead.
3. The Welsh Language Commissioner issued all local authorities with their Compliance Notices on 30th September 2015. This document lists which of the 176 Standards (as listed in full in the Welsh Language Standards Regulations (No.1) 2015) an organisation must comply with, along with any exemptions and their implementation dates. The City of Cardiff Council has a statutory duty to comply with standards listed.

4. In preparation for the new Standards the Council re-branded the Welsh Language Unit as Bilingual Cardiff, to take a lead role in developing a City where citizens and employees of the City of Cardiff Council can access services and support in either language equally through improved partnership working. This innovative new approach has been introduced to break down barriers between the Welsh and English languages and to ensure that Cardiff becomes a truly bilingual city.
5. The Bilingual Cardiff team assists the Council in complying with its statutory duty to provide services in both Welsh and English, and includes a comprehensive translation service. It also offers an advisory role for other organisations, whilst continuing to actively promote and further raise awareness of the Welsh language.
6. In addition the Welsh Language Standards requires the Council to produce an annual report, in relation to each financial year, which deals with the way it has complied with the service delivery standards, policy making standards and operational standards which were issued in 'The City of Cardiff Council Compliance Notice – Section 44 Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011'. Members can access Bi-lingual Cardiff Welsh Language Standards Annual Report 2015-16 by following this link.
<http://cardiff.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s11113/Welsh%20Report.pdf>

Welsh Language Strategy 2017-22

7. Compliance with Standard 145 requires the Council to have produced and published a five year Welsh Language Strategy by 30 September 2016, setting out how it will promote and facilitate the use of Welsh. This strategy must include a target to increase the number of Welsh speakers within Cardiff as well as specific actions to facilitate the use of the language in line with the Welsh Government's Welsh Language Strategy 2012-17, and draft strategy: *A Million Welsh Speakers by 2050* (2016).

8. The draft Welsh Language Strategy is attached at **Appendix 1**. It is a draft strategy for consultation, which will be followed by a detailed action plan to be developed with partners. Stakeholders and citizens are invited to submit their views on this strategy and on what needs to be included in the action plan by completing the questions attached at **Appendix 2**, also available online at www.cardiff.gov.uk/bilingualcardiff by the 30 of October 2016.
9. The Strategy is set in the context that the capital city of Wales is Britain's fastest growing major city; over the last 25 years, the number of Welsh speakers in Cardiff has more than doubled; and latest census figures indicate that 16% of the city's population have one or more skills in the Welsh language. Therefore as the city grows the aim of this draft strategy is to increase both the number and percentage of Welsh speakers and learners in Cardiff.
10. Such a growth in the number of Welsh speakers has been driven by significant migration to Cardiff from Welsh speaking areas of Wales over the last 25 years and reflects the committed practices and policies towards Welsh medium education in primary and secondary schools in Cardiff.
11. The Council fully supports the Welsh Government's vision for a million Welsh speakers by 2050, and the strategy document is structured to reflect the goals of Welsh Government's current Welsh Language Strategy. In order for Cardiff to play its part in achieving this vision, we would need to increase the number of Welsh speakers (aged 3+) in Cardiff by 15.9% from 36,735 (2011 Census) to 42,584 (2021 Census).
12. In summary, the attached Strategy outlines the Council's vision and high level strategy for increasing the numbers of Welsh speakers in 6 strategic areas, setting out its strategic priorities under each of these areas, and identifies the changes it will need to make to realise its vision of a bilingual Cardiff.
 - i. **The family:** Promoting use of the Welsh language within families.

- ii. **Children and young people:** Foster positive attitudes towards the Welsh language within the youth sector.
- iii. **The community:** Normalise bilingualism across the city.
- iv. **The workplace:** Develop increasingly bilingual workplaces.
- v. **Welsh language services:** Promote and improve the availability of Welsh language services in Cardiff.
- vi. **Infrastructure:** Bilingual Cardiff partner organisations mainstreaming the Welsh language.

13. Importantly the success of the Bilingual Cardiff vision, as outlined in the draft strategy, depends on collaborative working across partners and stakeholders. Initial consultation discussion has identified the following partners as the primary organisations which could together fulfil the bilingual Cardiff vision: Cardiff Public Services Board; Menter Caerdydd; Mudiad Meithrin; Cardiff University; Yr Hen Lyfrgell; Urdd Gobaith Cymru; Coleg Cymreg Cenediaethol; Coleg Cymru; Literature Wales; and S4C. As an action plan is developed the Council hopes to bring more organisations and partners on board to deliver its vision and outcomes.

Way Forward

14. The Final Welsh Language Strategy 2017-2022 will be published for consideration by Cabinet in December 2016. The Committee is invited to offer its comments and observations for inclusion in the consultation, and further development of the action plan.
15. To assist Members in contributing to the consultation on Welsh Language Strategy 2017-2022 the Council Leader, Councillor Phil Bale will attend the meeting with Davina Fiore (Director of Governance & Legal Services) and Ffion Gruffudd (Head of Bi-lingual Cardiff) to present the strategic approach and answer Members' questions.

Legal Implications

16. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

17. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to:

- (i) Examine the Council's response to the Welsh Language Standard 145 requirement for a 5 year Welsh Language Strategy that proposes how the Council will promote the Welsh language and facilitate the use of the Welsh language more widely.

- (ii) Consider whether it wishes to combine its comments and observations into a formal response to the consultation that closes on 30 October 2016, to inform the development of an action plan to be considered by Cabinet in December 2016.

Davina Fiore
Director of Governance & Legal Services
5 October 2016