
Bilingual Cardiff Strategy Action Plan

Reason for the Report

1. To consider a revised action plan for the Bilingual Cardiff Strategy (**Appendix A**) which will form part of the 2018-19 Welsh Language Standards Annual Report.

Background

2. The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 established a legal framework to impose duties on organisations including Local Authorities to comply with standards in relation to the Welsh language by way of sub-legislation (Welsh Language Regulation (No.1) Standards 2015).
3. The Welsh Language Standards are intended to:
 - Improve the services Welsh-speakers can expect to receive from organisations in Welsh
 - Increase the use people make of Welsh-language services
 - Make it clear to organisations what they need to do in terms of the Welsh language
 - Ensure that there is an appropriate degree of consistency in terms of the duties placed on organisations in the same sectors.
4. Each local authority was issued with a compliance notice from the Welsh Language Commissioner in September 2015, which listed the standards the organisation was expected to comply with. Cardiff Council was issued with **171 standards**. The standards issued to Cardiff Council are listed in 'The Cardiff Council *Compliance Notice*

– *Section 44 Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011*. A copy of the standards, which is referred to in this report, is available from www.cardiff.gov.uk/bilingualcardiff The Council also has a statutory duty to produce an annual report on its compliance with these standards.

5. Standard 145 of the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015 requires the Council to produce and publish a five year strategy by the 30th of September 2016 which sets out how we will promote and facilitate the use of Welsh. This strategy includes 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 *Cymraeg2050*

Welsh Language Standard 145 states:

You must produce, and publish on your website, a 5-year strategy that sets out how you propose to promote the Welsh language and to facilitate the use of the Welsh language more widely in your area; and the strategy must include (amongst other matters) (a) a target (in terms of the percentage of speakers in your area) for increasing or maintaining the number of Welsh speakers in your area by the end of the 5 year period concerned, and (b) a statement setting out how you intend to reach that target; and you must review the strategy and publish a revised version on your website within 5 years of publishing a strategy (or of publishing a revised strategy).

6. The Council has a statutory duty under standard 145 to include in the strategy a target for increasing or maintaining the number of Welsh speakers by the end of the 5 year period concerned. To support the Welsh Government's vision for a million Welsh speakers by 2050, and 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). This target has been included in the Bilingual Cardiff Strategy.

7. The methodology used for this target was to apply the percentage increase required each year in the number of Welsh speakers to reach a million by 2050 (from 562,016 in 2011 Census). This 1.5% per annum growth rate if applied to Cardiff would increase the number of Welsh speakers to 42,584 by the 2021 Census; an increase of 15.9% on the 2011 Census figure.
8. The vision of the Welsh Government's is for a million Welsh speakers by 2050. In order for Cardiff to play its part in achieving this vision the number of Welsh speakers (aged 3+) in Cardiff would need to increase by 15.9% from 36,735 (2011 Census) to 42,584 (2021 Census). This target has been included in the Bilingual Cardiff Strategy.
9. Over the last 25 years, the number of Welsh speakers in Cardiff has more than doubled with the latest 2011 census figures indicating that over 16% of the city's population have one or more skills in the language. As the city grows, our aim in this strategy is to increase the number and percentage of Welsh speakers and learners in Cardiff, as well as increase the use of the Welsh language in the city.

Independent External Review 2018

10. As part of the Cabinet report for the Bilingual Cardiff 2017-22 Strategy, the Council committed to an independent external review of the strategy within a year of its publication, to ensure that the action plan was appropriate to fulfil the strategy's priorities. The external review, conducted by Nico is shown at **Appendix 1**
11. The review includes the following 8 recommendations.

R1	Consider a review of <i>what</i> is measured, (and when, how and by whom) to reinforce shared understanding, robust record keeping and evidence of progress towards the strategic priorities and overarching target.
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R2	Consider exploring further the definition of what a truly bilingual Cardiff means in quantifiable terms in the context of the strategic priorities. In addition, consider linking measurable key indicators and milestones of success clearly to the action plan so that all partners are clear on what is to be achieved and evidenced.
R3	Ensure continued support and engagement to articulate the vision in contexts that are relevant to different sections of the Council, and amongst partners in general over the strategy's lifetime. This will assist in strengthening shared purpose and achievement of the strategy.
R4	As suggested in the Fforwm meeting, consider the possibility of extending a Fforwm meeting once a year to a wider partnership to allow Bilingual Cardiff to ensure practical input from partners of all interests, and to reinforce the city-wide ownership of the vision.
R5	Consider developing and maintaining a stakeholder management plan in order to sustain and nurture the positive relationship with key stakeholders over the lifetime of the Strategy.
R6	Consider developing and maintaining a programme of communication to support the implementation of the Strategy.
R7	In conjunction with R1 and R2, consider reviewing the action plan in consultation with key partners (by the end of year 2, March 2019), with a view to updating or adapting the targets. <i>[As part of any review, consider how the achievement of any new or adapted targets will align with the requirements to report on progress in terms of i) the increase in the number of Welsh speakers and ii) the increase in the use of Welsh and what is the quantitative and qualitative evidence required.]</i>
R8	When conducting a review of the action plan, consider identifying any key strategic areas that aren't sufficiently covered in the current action plan so that a record or 'wish list' is kept should any co-funding or co-production opportunities arise. Also, any risks arising from lack of

	resources or change in circumstances that would impact on the successful achievement of any strategic priorities should be recorded.
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12. The Committee is requested to consider the recommendations but particularly recommendations 7 & 8 in order to assist the development of the draft action plan.

Bilingual Cardiff Strategy Governance Structure

10. A robust governance structure was established to deliver and monitor the actions within the Bilingual Cardiff Strategy, including establishing a Bilingual Cardiff Forum with over 35 organisations represented. The aims and role of the forum which meets quarterly, is to:

- Ensure that each representative is responsible for monitoring the actions applicable to their individual organisation.
- Provide quarterly feedback to the Council's Bilingual Cardiff Members Group on the implementation of relevant actions.
- Contribute to consultation responses relating to the Welsh language on behalf of the forum.
- Share good practice and identify opportunities to work in partnership for the benefit of the Welsh language in Cardiff.
- As part of their terms of reference, the Bilingual Cardiff Members Group will also update the Cabinet regularly on the work relating to the Bilingual Cardiff Strategy.

Legal Implications

13. 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

14. 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

13. The Committee is recommended to:

- a. consider the information provided at this meeting; and
- b. determine whether it wishes to relay any comments or observations to the Cabinet Member for consideration; and
- c. consider the requirements for further scrutiny of this issue.

Davina Fiore
Director of Governance & Legal Services
01 May 2019

Appendices

Appendix A – Draft Bilingual Cardiff Action Plan 2019-2020
Appendix 1 – Bilingual Cardiff Strategy External Review