

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:
17TH NOVEMBER, 2021

REFERENCE FROM CABINET: 8TH NOVEMBER, 2021

**“C720 DRAFT WELSH LANGUAGE PROMOTION STRATEGY (EL/PR)
(SCRUTINY – LEARNING AND CULTURE) –**

The Welsh Language Standards (Standards 145 and 146) required Local Authorities to:

- produce and publish a five-year strategy setting out how they intend to promote the Welsh language and to facilitate the use of Welsh more widely in their area;
- include a target for increasing or maintaining the number of Welsh speakers in the area by the end of the five-year period;
- include a statement explaining how the organisation intended to reach that target;
- review the strategy and publish a revised version of it on the website within five years of the date of publication of the strategy (or the date of publication of a revised version of it);
- after five years, assess the extent to which the Council had followed that strategy and met the target it had set;
- publish the assessment on the website, showing the number of Welsh speakers in the Local Authority’s area, and the age of those speakers;
- note in the assessment a list of activities arranged or funded by them to promote the Welsh language during the previous five years.

The report presented Cabinet with an assessment of the 2017-22 Promotion Strategy and a draft of a new five-year strategy for the 2022-27 period. The report sought Cabinet approval to consult on these documents in order to inform and finalise the 2022-27 Promotion Strategy and to inform the development of an action plan to pursue its commitments.

The Leader was pleased that the assessment had concluded that the Vale of Glamorgan Council had clearly made significant progress since 2017 in terms of promoting the Welsh language, both internally and publicly, and had done so against a backdrop of ongoing austerity and the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic conditions. There were strong foundations upon which to build and many of the targets and actions would continue into the new Strategy. Much had changed since 2017 however, and so the draft strategy reflected current circumstances and had adapted its approach in some areas.

Cabinet Members were asked to consider and approve the draft as the basis for consultation as described in the indicative timetable in Paragraph 2.11 of the report.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the content of the report and the assessment of the current strategy (Appendix A to the report) be noted.
- (2) T H A T the draft Welsh language Promotion Strategy 2022-27 (Appendix B to the report) be approved as the basis for consultation as described in the report.
- (3) T H A T the consultation approach and timetable as set out in the report be approved.
- (4) T H A T the report and appendices be referred to Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee and Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee as part of the programme of consultation.
- (5) T H A T Cabinet receives a further report setting out the results of the consultation, a draft final version of the 2022-27 strategy, and accompanying action plan in due course.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.
- (2) To the draft Welsh Language Promotion Strategy (2022-27) be approved for consultation.
- (3) To ensure that effective consultation is undertaken within the necessary timeframes for publishing the Draft Welsh Language Promotion Strategy.
- (4) To ensure that all relevant Scrutiny Committees have the opportunity to consider the Draft Welsh Language Promotion Strategy and provide feedback as part of the programme of consultation.
- (5) To ensure that a revised Welsh Language Promotion Strategy can be published in line with the statutory deadline set by the Welsh Language Commissioner.”