

Newport City Council 5 Year Welsh Language Strategy 2017-2022

A Welsh language vision for Newport

Newport City Council

DRAFT

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Introduction

This 5 Year Welsh Language Strategy for Newport sets out how we, as a local authority, are going to promote and facilitate the use of the Welsh language. This strategy is Newport City Council's responsibility, however many other organisations and people are active in using and promoting the Welsh language in the city. Our role is to pull these efforts together so that we have the best possible outcomes for the people of Newport. Engaging people is key to the success of this strategy, both in terms of forming and delivering a Welsh language vision for Newport.

The Welsh language is one of Wales' treasures. It is something that defines us as a people, and is increasingly an integral part of our everyday lives. In 2016 the Welsh Government (WG) launched their strategy for 'A Million Welsh Speakers by 2050.' This strategy aims to support the Welsh Government's ambitious target for growth by setting our own for Newport, accompanied by Newport specific themes, objectives and actions which emerged from our consultation.

The promotion of the Welsh language is a long term aim. The council has set a 5 year target for increasing the number of children attending Welsh medium education. However we also recognise that a comprehensive strategy needs to increase everybody's opportunities to use Welsh. As such this strategy is not only about increasing the number of Welsh speakers in Newport. It is also about inspiring and supporting Welsh learners and everybody who is on the continuum of speaking Welsh, from those who can say 'bore da' to those who are Welsh language poets. We want to foster a Newport identity where people love the Welsh language and feel confident in using it in all parts of life.

In order to help us meet our strategic objectives, we have identified 3 Welsh language themes, under which sit a number of Welsh language objectives. Attached to these objectives are actions detailing the steps we will take to achieve the targets.

The Council is subject to the Welsh Language Standards: we promote ourselves as a bilingual organisation, offering bilingual services. The Wellbeing of Future Generations places sustainable development the central organising principle in Welsh public life. One of the act's 7 wellbeing goals is 'A Wales of vibrant cultures and thriving Welsh language.' This means that there is already a duty on the council to achieve this goal in the long term.

The council is in the early days of promoting the Welsh language and working in partnership to promote the Welsh language. This strategy will be revised to reflect progress and to respond to the national Welsh language agenda. Any changes that we make to the strategy will have appropriate governance and community involvement.

A Vision for the Welsh Language in Newport

‘The people of Newport can use Welsh in all parts of life...’

A 5 year target for increasing the percentage of Welsh speakers

Our target is:

To increase the number of Newport pupils in Welsh medium education from 934 in 2016/17, to 1,250 or more in 2022/23.

This represents a growth from 4% of the school age population to 5%.

This is based on filling the reception classes of the 3 Welsh medium primary schools to their capacity of 107 places a year, for the next 5 years beginning in 2017/2018.

Welsh Language Strategy Themes and Objectives

We have identified 3 themes which we feel will help us deliver our Welsh language vision for Newport. Below these themes sit 10 objectives which will further help us target our efforts and measure our outcomes. They themes and objectives will support us in not only meeting our target of increasing the number of pupils in Newport engaged in Welsh medium education, but will help us support the use of Welsh within the city itself.

1. Increase the numbers of Welsh speakers
2. Council Policy and Workforce Planning
3. Promote Welsh in all parts of life

1 Increase the numbers of Welsh speakers

- 1.1 Language transition in families
- 1.2 Access to local Welsh Language Education
- 1.3 Welsh in Further and Higher Education- Bilingual Skills for all
- 1.4 Access to learning Welsh for adults

2 Council policy and workforce planning

- 2.1 Planning and language policy
- 2.2 Welsh in the council workforce

3 Promote Welsh in all parts of life

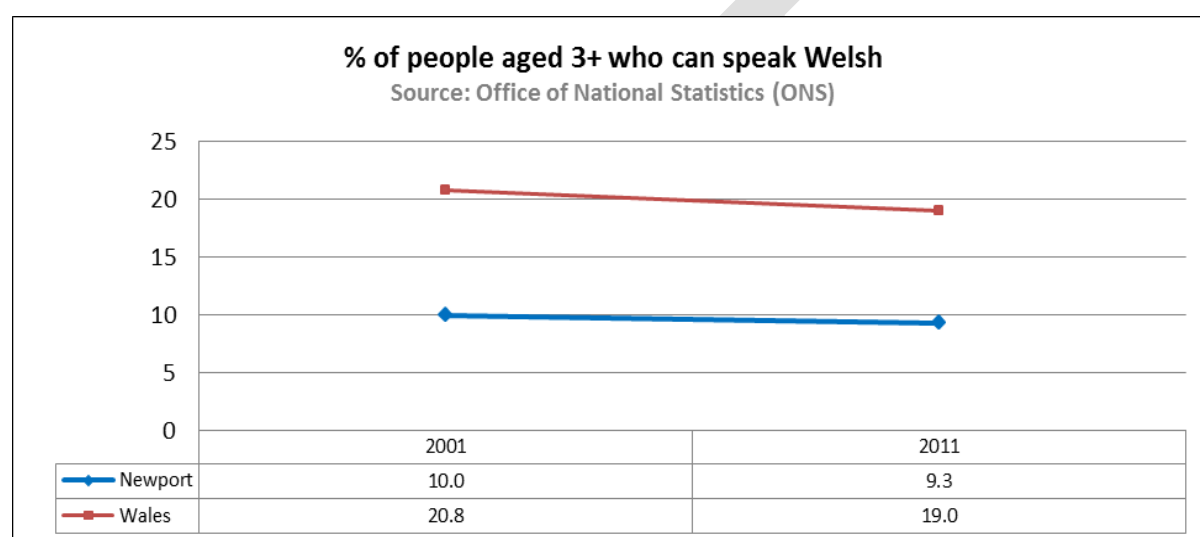
- 3.1 Using Welsh as a citizen
- 3.2 Using Welsh socially
- 3.3 Using Welsh digitally

The Welsh Language in Newport

How many Welsh speakers are there in Wales, how many in Newport?

There are different datasets on how many Welsh speakers we have in Newport and the results from these vary greatly. The census data is the most frequently cited dataset and gathers information from the whole population, whilst others datasets such as National Survey for Wales (NSfW) use smaller samples.

The percentage of people aged 3+ years who could speak Welsh at the time of the last Census (2011) in Newport was 9.3%, compared to 19.0% for Wales. Between the 2001 Census and the 2011 Census there was a decrease of 0.7 percentage points in Newport, this compares with a 1.8 percentage point decrease for Wales.



If we look at the table overleaf the good news is that all the age groups between 20 and 39 show an increase in the proportion of Welsh speakers. All the age groups 40 and over show a reduction in the proportion of Welsh speakers. It is clear that Welsh language skills are significantly different by age group. Whilst we have reason to question the validity of the census data on children and young people we have no basis to question the adult data.

However, there is evidence to suggest that Census data over estimates the prevalence of Welsh speakers in some age groups in Newport.

It is possible to suggest that parents overestimated their children's ability to speak Welsh. In 2011, parents completing the census said that 42% of children and young people aged 11-14 speak Welsh. The figure was 46% in 2001. In tracing that cohort from the 2001 to 2011 the figure drops from 46% of 10-14 year olds to 7.8% of 20-24 year olds speaking Welsh over a decade later. It is unlikely that individual skill levels would change this significantly over a decade and brings into question the validity of the data.

Furthermore, the 2011 Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) figures suggest that about 4% of the 24,000 pupils in Newport sought education through the medium of Welsh. This contradicts the figure of 34.8% of total 5-9 year olds which the 2011 census claim speak Welsh within the local authority area.

In summary, it is likely that both the 2001 and 2011 census overestimates the number and proportion of Welsh speakers in Newport, primarily due to parents over estimating the ability of their children.

% of people who can speak Welsh by age				
	2001 %	2011 %	% Diff	
Age 3 – 4	9.2	14.0	+4.8	↑
Age 5 – 9	36.3	34.8	-1.5	↓
Age 10 – 14	46.1	42.0	-4.1	↓
Age 15 – 19	21.4	23.0	+1.6	↑
Age 20 – 24	3.8	7.8	+4.0	↑
Age 25 – 29	3.4	4.9	+1.5	↑
Age 30 – 34	2.8	3.3	+0.5	↑
Age 35 – 39	2.6	3.1	+0.5	↑
Age 40 – 44	2.7	2.6	-0.1	↓
Age 45 – 49	2.8	2.4	-0.4	↓
Age 50 – 54	2.7	2.4	-0.3	↓
Age 55 – 59	2.6	1.9	-0.7	↓
Age 60 – 64	2.1	1.8	-0.3	↓
Age 65 – 69	2.9	1.7	-1.2	↓
Age 70 – 74	2.3	1.4	-0.9	↓
Age 75 – 79	2.6	2.0	-0.6	↓
Age 80 +	2.2	1.8	-0.4	↓
Total	10.0	9.3	-0.7	↓

The older age groups are either losing their skills or moving away. The people in the younger age groups are either gaining skills in Newport, or have benefitted from a Welsh medium education, or are moving into Newport with Welsh language skills. If this trend continues in the long term it will result in a growth in the number and proportion of Welsh speakers in Newport.

A more accurate snapshot of the current number of Welsh speakers in the city can likely be found in the 2015 National Survey for Wales (NSfW) which asks ability to speak Welsh. In this data only 6% of the sampled population stated that they could speak Welsh. This figure is closer to the figure of 4% of the total population in school provided by the WESP.

Projected figures for pupils in Welsh medium education in Newport

The table below combines the most up to date data from our school census figures from the Autumn 2016/17 with the most recent school projection figures from the PLASC (June 2016). Our current projection figures suggest there will be slight reduction in Primary Schools pupils over the next 5 years, with overall growth being made up for by strong secondary school growth. However, given that our more recent census figures for the academic year 16/17 are already higher than our projections for the year 17/18, there is increasing evidence to suggest that our projections may underestimate the demand for Welsh medium education in Newport.

	2016/17*	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22
Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd	305	290	288	284	284	282
Ysgol Gymraeg Ifor Hael	186	168	163	158	153	147
Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Teyrnnon	128	146	164	163	174	181
Primary Pupil Totals	619	604	615	605	611	610
Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed **	81	135	210	303	396	463
Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw	234	217	179	149	92	50
Secondary Pupil Totals	315	352	389	452	488	513
Pupil Totals	934	956	1004	1057	1099	1123

*2016/17 are based on Newport City Council's Autumn 2016 school census

**Adjusted to account for pupils coming from Monmouthshire

Proposed target for increasing the number of Welsh speakers in Newport

To ensure that we do not see growth in Welsh medium education plateau over the next five years, we have set a target to increase the number of Newport pupils in Welsh medium education from 934 in 2016/17, to 1,250 or more in 2022/23.

This is based on filling the reception classes of the 3 Welsh medium primary schools to their capacity. The chart below demonstrates how the target looks to improve on our current cohort size. By 2022 this strategy, working in conjunction with the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP), looks to increase the number of children in Welsh medium primary schools by 19.1% over the current cohort population.

This represents a growth from 4% of the school age population to 5%.

Projections and target for pupils in Welsh medium education

Pupil number	2016/17	Projection 2021/22	Target 2021/22
Welsh Medium Primary Schools	619	610	737
% Welsh Medium Primary Schools	4.7%		5.3%
Welsh Medium Secondary Schools	315	513	513
% Welsh Medium Secondary Schools	3.2%		4.5%
Welsh Medium Primary and Secondary Schools	934	1123	1250
% Welsh Medium Primary and Secondary Schools	4.0%		5.0%

Emerging Welsh language themes and objectives

This strategy has identified three key themes which encompass Newport City Council's vision and the target for the Welsh language. Below these themes are a number of objectives and attached actions which will allow us to better focus our efforts and measure our outcomes. This section will introduce the themes, outline why they are significant and detail the actions we will look to achieve over the lifetime of this strategy. This is followed by an action plan which clearly sets out how we will achieve these and who we will look to partner with.

The themes we have identified are;

- Increasing the number of Welsh speakers in Newport
- Council Policy and Workforce Planning,
- Promotion of Welsh in all Parts of Life

Following the public consultation of our strategy, it was clear that we needed to take a more holistic approach to the Welsh Language in Newport. Whilst increasing the number of Welsh speakers is important, it is only a constituent part of the solution. As you can see, these themes are not just about increasing the numbers of Welsh speakers, but also about how the Welsh Language is used, and about what we can do to promote the opportunities the public has to use Welsh and maintain their language skills within their communities.

Theme 1: Increasing the number of Welsh speakers in Newport

This theme is not only closely linked to achieving the target of the strategy, but it also feeds into the ambitious goal set out by the Welsh Government of achieving 1 Million Welsh speakers by 2050. The objectives covered under this theme seek to encourage engagement with the Welsh language at all points of an individual's life.

The objectives identified under this theme are:

- Promoting Language transition in families
- Access to local Welsh language education
- Welsh in Further and Higher education – Bilingual skills for all
- Access to learning Welsh for Adults

1.1 Promoting Language transition in families

It is often assumed that parents who speak Welsh all pass on the language to their children. This is often the case but not always.

According to Menter Iaith's Welsh Language Profile, in Wales, the rate at which the Welsh language is passed on to children by two Welsh speaking parents is 82%. In Newport the rate is 77%. In 2001 this figure was 47% showing a very encouraging increase (p.15 Menter Iaith Casnewydd (MIC) WL Profile 2016).

The same report also notes an increase in Newport households where one parent speaks Welsh – from 19% in 2001 to 38% in 2016 (p.15 Menter Iaith Casnewydd WL Profile 2016). These parents are less likely to pass on the language to their children than families in which both parents speak Welsh.

Newport City Council will, over the lifetime of this strategy, look to work positively with partners to identify ways in which the Welsh language and Welsh medium education can be actively and effectively promoted within families in Newport. This ongoing promotion campaign will include the creation and distribution of leaflets demonstrating the benefits of bilingualism, and will also engage with common concerns that parents have about Welsh medium education.

1.2 Access to local Welsh language education

Newport City Council's commitment to the promotion of the Welsh language in childcare and educational settings has been laid out in detail within the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-20 (WESP), launched alongside this 5 Year Welsh Language Strategy.

The vision set out in the WESP 2017-20 is as follows:

“Newport City Council acting as a member of the South East Wales Consortia will participate in the development of Welsh standards in education to equip a bilingual Wales with a skilled bilingual workforce, supporting the Welsh Government's vision for Welsh in Education.”

Over the last 10 years there has been a steady growth in the council's provision of Welsh medium education. The city now has three Welsh medium primary schools and as of September 2016, one Welsh medium secondary school, Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed.

Over the next five years the council will need to rise to the challenges of population growth in a sustainable way. The WESP commits the council to improving the process of measuring the demand for Welsh-medium provision and to respond to any growth in demand. The document also commits the local authority to design and implement a 'Learning & Working in Welsh' portal on the council's website as a resource for Welsh learners of all ages which , will also feed into the overarching campaign of promoting the Welsh language in Newport.

Pupils in English medium schools learn Welsh formally and informally until Year 11. However, the majority of parents of pupils in both English and Welsh medium education do not speak Welsh, and pupils need the chance to use the Welsh language in other aspects of life, including play and sporting activities etc. In the action plan we look at positive initiatives for all pupils to use the language, through joint working between schools, partners including the Urdd and Menter Iaith Casnewydd and implementing initiatives such as the Siarter Iaith.

The Welsh language, and its use in Newport, needs to be inclusive and open. As Welsh gains equal status in Wales, knowledge of both the English and Welsh languages will become increasingly important and an asset in the future Welsh economy.

A recurring theme from our consultation was that a Welsh Language Strategy for Newport needed to reflect the population of the city. The Council will work with partners to ensure that the promotion of the Welsh language engages with all of Newport's communities. This means reaching out to communities who have previously under-engaged with the Welsh.

1.3 Welsh in Further and Higher Education- Bilingual Skills for all

Further and higher education through the medium of Welsh is key to providing students with the skills they will need in a bilingual workforce. At present the three providers of further and higher education in Newport are Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw, Coleg Gwent and the University of South Wales.

Over the lifetime of this strategy, Newport City Council will meet with stakeholders to discuss how Welsh Medium further and higher education can be promoted across the local authority area. This group will also look at how Newport City Council can play a positive and constructive role in increasing the number of Welsh speaking teachers, youth workers, and early years practitioners to help facilitate the expansion of Welsh in post-16 education.

1.4 Access to learning Welsh for adults

Increasing the number of Welsh speakers in Newport means we should make learning the Welsh language more accessible to everyone. Currently the main provider of Welsh Language courses aimed at adults is Coleg Gwent, whose figures for the academic year 2015-2016 state that there were 154 Adult Welsh learners from the Newport Area. The promotion of adult education will be included in the 'Welsh Education Portal' described above, and the authority will engage with partners including Coleg Gwent to identify ways in which we can work together to increase adult learner figures.

Theme 2: Council Policy and Workforce Planning

Under this theme Newport City Council reflects on the statutory obligations it has to the Welsh language, how it can be championed through everyday functions already carried out by the authority and how it can be promoted within the council workforce. As a result the two objectives under this theme are:

- Mainstream the Welsh language in council policy
- Welsh in the council workforce

Under the first objective, this means that we must continue to ensure that we share good practice, both internally via groups such as the Welsh Language Implementation Group, but also increasingly with external partners. We must also continue to ensure that due consideration via our Fairness and Equality Impact Assessments is given to the Welsh language. Under our second objective, we need to better engage the workforce in Welsh language awareness and in learning the language or using little phrases of Welsh in the workplace.

2.1 Mainstream the Welsh language in council policy

We want to ensure that the Welsh language is an essential part of Newport's identity and image. The council's corporate identity is bilingual as is our Newport identity through the Cardiff Capital City Region, Newport City of Democracy, Great Western Cities and other regional initiatives.

At present the authority has systematic assessments in place to ensure that the Welsh language is appropriately considered when new policies are created or amended. However as services carried out on our behalf are now required to meet the same Standards there is an opportunity to positively affect people's ability to use Welsh and create a more Welsh language aware environment.

As other Newport statutory organisations implement Welsh Language Schemes and begin to come under Welsh Language Standards, there will be an increasing need to work in partnership with organisations like Aneurin Bevan Health Board, University of South Wales, across all sectors, to ensure that we not only share good practice, but we explore the possibility of coordinating our efforts in promoting and implementing Welsh language services, minimising waste and maximising impact.

2.2 Welsh in the council and workforce

Newport City Council is actively promoting Welsh language awareness and use of the Welsh language in the council, for the benefit of staff as well as our customers. Our Welsh language communication plan focuses on using the language and engagement with the Welsh language as well as compliance with the Welsh Language Standards.

Newport City Council delivers Welsh language awareness training for staff and language learning programmes - from training people to use bilingual greetings to encouraging staff to take up long term Welsh language learning through the council.

Over the lifetime of this strategy we will be looking to further develop the support we offer staff when it comes to improving their Welsh language skills, particularly staff members who already have intermediate or higher Welsh skills.

Theme 3: Promote Welsh in all parts of life

To promote Welsh in all parts of life Newport City Council recognises not only the role it has to play in normalising the use of the Welsh language through the provision of Welsh language services, but also appreciates that Welsh is a living language and must be promoted within the wider community. Under this theme we will focus not only on the promotion of the Welsh language services that we offer, but also on how we can facilitate the use of Welsh outside the areas of our direct influence through closer collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

The strategic objectives under this theme are:

- Using Welsh as a citizen
- Using Welsh socially
- Using Welsh digitally

3.1 Using Welsh as a citizen

The Welsh Language Standards give people the right to use Welsh in public life. The Council is the first local public body to be subject to the Standards, and given the large scope of council functions, this has created a large area of public life with a positive Welsh language offer. As the standards expand to include other organisations, the council has a role to play in increasing public confidence in our own Welsh language services and in working in partnership with organisations who will also have to offer bilingual services in the future.

Over the course of this strategy's lifetime the council will aim to better promote its own bilingual services, working towards increasing public awareness and confidence in using Welsh with public institutions in South East Wales.

In our leadership role in Newport, we will have a conversation with partner organisations like Newport Live, sports organisations such as Newport Gwent Dragons and the Football Association of Wales, and other sectors about increasing the visibility of the Welsh language in Newport. We will consider how best to help community organisations to access translation services for the purpose of creating bilingual publicity materials in Newport, as the Welsh language standards only allow us to display bilingual materials.

3.2 Using Welsh socially

For a language to thrive it has to be used socially. Currently in Newport there are issues with learners not having the opportunity to socialise in Welsh and use the language outside the classroom, primarily due to the low number of Welsh speakers in the city. There are very few situations in which a person feels free to start a conversation in Welsh in Newport if they choose to.

Organisations like Menter Iaith Casnewydd promotes informal sessions, such as Siop a Siarad where people speak and practice their Welsh socially. The council will, over the next five years, take steps to map social activities available to adults, young people and children, and share information about the events online.

We will also take positive steps to promote the Welsh language within the community by partnership working and looking for funding opportunities available across organisations.

3.3 Using Welsh digitally

As the council pushes to expand its online presence and encourage public engagement online, it is crucial that we ensure that the Welsh language is a fundamental part of this expanding provision.

Newport City Council is increasing use of multi-media platforms and is aware of the need to have a fully bilingual presence. The authority is already actively working to improve the bilingual functionality of our website, improving the services we offer to Welsh speakers.

We will work with partners to create original Welsh language materials, and look at any gaps in the provision of materials relevant to Newport and children and young people, and where we can contribute.

In adhering to the Welsh Language Standards the authority will play a role in creating demand for software which had a bilingual or multilingual capacity. This will contribute to creating a market is more positive about the Welsh language and conscious of the needs of bilingual organisations and Welsh speakers.

Newport City Council 5 Year Welsh Language Strategy 2017-2022

Action Plan

(Names and abbreviations of partner organisations are on page 18 below.)

1 Increase the numbers of Welsh speakers		
Objective	Action	Council and potential partners
1.1 Language transition in families	<p>1.1.1 Convene a group of to look at how best to promote Welsh language transition in families in Newport, targeting families and professionals</p> <p>1.1.2 Create and publish information to demonstrate the benefits of bilingualism</p>	<p>Education Services</p> <p>MIC, MYM, CiB, Education Services</p>
1.2 Access to local Welsh language education	<p>1.2.1 Develop a 'Learning, Playing and Working' in Welsh portal on the council's website as an access tool to all things Welsh in Newport</p> <p>1.2.2 Increase the number of Welsh medium childcare places and promote</p> <p>1.2.3 Identify any underrepresented groups in Welsh medium education and target promotional activities through a multi-agency communications campaign linked to the benefits of bilingualism information</p> <p>1.2.4 Maintain an immersion provision for latecomers, i.e. children who wish to join Welsh medium education after year 3</p> <p>1.2.5 Convene a group to look at how best to inform professionals about the benefits of bilingualism, and removing barriers in perception such as bilingualism or multilingualism as a barrier to child development</p> <p>1.2.6 Support the Welsh Government Siarter Iaith initiative in Welsh medium schools to encourage the use of Welsh in all aspects of life, and explore possibilities of rolling out to English medium schools in Newport</p>	<p>Education Services</p> <p>Education Services, Flying Start, MYM</p> <p>Education Services, Flying Start, MYM, MIC, SEWREC</p> <p>Education, the Welsh medium schools</p> <p>MIC, Yr Urdd, CiB, MIM</p> <p>Education, EAS</p>
1.3 Welsh in Further and Higher Education-Bilingual Skills for all	<p>1.3.1 Promote Welsh Medium as a natural post-16 or further education choice through the Learning, Playing and Working in Welsh portal and associated campaigns</p>	<p>Education, Coleg Gwent, Welsh Medium Schools</p>

	1.3.2 Support the use of Welsh in the community and in English medium education through partnerships with the Welsh medium schools in Newport	Education, the Welsh medium schools
	1.3.3 Convene a Group to look at partnership approaches to increase number of Welsh speaking teachers, early years practitioners, youth workers and care workers etc.	Education, the Welsh medium schools
1.4 Access to Learning Welsh for Adults	1.4.1 Promote learning Welsh for adults through the Learning, Playing and Working in Welsh portal, and in the Newport City Council workplace, and with partners through the Public Service Board.	Coleg Gwent

2 Council Policy and Workforce Planning		
Objective	Action	Council and potential partners
2.1 Mainstream the Welsh language in council policy	<p>2.1.1 Normalise the Welsh language in council decision making through the use of Impact Assessments</p> <p>2.1.2 Share good practice on assessing the impact on the Welsh language with partners in the Public Services Board (PSB)</p> <p>2.1.3 Ensure that the Welsh language is an essential part of the Newport brand through the City Region, Newport City of Democracy, Great Western Cities and other regional initiatives etc.</p>	<p>All service areas</p> <p>NCC, PSB</p> <p>NCC, PSB</p>
2.2 Welsh in the council workforce	<p>2.2.1 Promote staff engagement with the Welsh language through Welsh language awareness training and through a communications plan to normalise the use of accidental Welsh in the workplace</p> <p>2.2.2 Mainstream the planning of staff Welsh language skills through the council's Workforce Development Plan</p> <p>2.2.3 Design a training and development plan around staff with intermediate and advanced level Welsh language skills for each individual to have the opportunity to improve their skills</p>	<p>All service areas</p> <p>Human Resources</p> <p>Human Resources</p>

	2.2.4 Design a training and development plan around frontline staff for each individual to have the opportunity to develop their skills	Customer Services and Human Resources
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3 Promote Welsh in all parts of life		
Objective	Action	Council and potential partners
3.1 Using Welsh as a citizen	3.1.1 To normalise the Welsh language in community events the council will consider giving partner and community organisations limited access to transition services for publicity materials	NCC
	3.1.2 Increase public confidence and make it normal for people to choose Welsh language services at Newport City Council by promoting Welsh language services	NCC, MIC
	3.1.3 Engage interested partner organisations in a conversation about increasing the visibility of the Welsh language in Newport e.g. the FAW, Gwent Dragons, Newport LIVE, the Transporter Bridge, attractions such as Newport Wetlands.	NCC and partners
3.2 Using Welsh socially	3.2.1 Convene a group to map the range of activities available in Welsh for children and young people across the range of providers. Look for opportunities to expand the provision through joint working, other funding opportunities etc. and promote widely.	NCC Play Development, MIC, Yr Urdd,
	3.2.1. Make the Welsh language more visible in the City Centre, by identifying front line Welsh speakers and shops/ cafes where Welsh is spoken by staff and using the orange 'Cymraeg' logos.	NCC, MIC, Coleg Gwent, Friars Walk
	3.2.3 Investigate further use of Welsh language place names locally	NCC, Welsh Language Commissioner Community Councils
3.3 Using Welsh digitally	3.3.1 Influence providers by committing only to buy only software and hardware systems etc. which facilitate language choice and Welsh language use	All service areas
	3.3.2 Support any community initiatives to create and distribute Welsh language digital materials relevant to Newport, or materials which promote the use of Welsh in Newport, in order to make it relevant to people in Newport	

Local Partners

In order to achieve the objectives laid out in the action plan above we will need to work closely with relevant stakeholders across Newport. Newport City Council sees the following partners as key to fulfilling the authority's vision.

Menter Iaith Casnewydd (MIC)

The main aim of Menter Iaith Casnewydd is to increase opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to use or learn the Welsh language within their local community. Menter Iaith have developed a number of innovative projects around the local authority area which help stimulate community development around the Welsh language.

The Urdd

The Urdd, as a Welsh medium youth organisation, is focused on giving young people the opportunity to develop as well rounded individuals. Within Newport, the Urdd works closely with our Welsh medium schools, offering a range of activities to pupils throughout the year. The Urdd is the principle organiser of the annual Eisteddfod, but also organises residential and sporting activities for young people.

Fforwm Iaith / Welsh Language Forum

Fforwm Iaith Casnewydd is made up a range of key stakeholders from across the public and voluntary sectors. The group aims to create a forum for partnership working and the dissemination of good practice. The forum was used by Newport City Council as a focus group to discuss this strategy, and many of their constructive comments have been worked into this final version.

Coleg Gwent

Coleg Gwent is Newport's only FE college and the main provider of adult Welsh medium education within the county. Newport City Council works in partnership with the college to deliver our Welsh language classes, and we will likely look to the body to develop other more bespoke classes aimed at our intermediate and advanced Welsh speakers in the future.

Mudiad Meithrin (MYM)

Mudiad Meithrin is a voluntary organisation and the main provider of Welsh Medium early years care and education in the voluntary sector in Wales. Its aim is to give every young child in Wales the opportunity to benefit from early years and education experiences. The organisation employs 200 staff nationally, and an additional 1500 staff work in Cylchoedd Meithrin (Welsh Medium playgroups) throughout Wales.

Cymraeg i Blant (CiB)

Cymraeg i Blant are a new project funded by Welsh Government and coordinated by Mudiad Meithrin. The project focuses on increasing the number of nursery age children that are able to speak Welsh. It shares information, advice and offers support to parents on the benefits of bilingualism, the importance of introducing Welsh to children as early as possible and the advantages of Welsh medium education.

Engagement

Consultation on the Strategy took place from 30 October to 31st of January 2017 Newport City Council closed the consultation on the Council's draft 5 Year Welsh Language Strategy. This consultation was carried out using a mixture of face-to-face and online consultations with the former being hosted on Newport City Council's website and promoted via Newport City Council's Twitter and Facebook pages.

The online consultation received 99 total responses and asked respondents a series of yes-no questions regarding whether they supported/agreed with the vision and themes of the strategy. The consultation then provided them with an opportunity to expand on their answers and give more qualitative responses.

Two face-to-face consultation events were conducted with Newport City Council's Welsh Language Implementation Group and Forum Iaith Casnewydd. The former is made up of Welsh Language representatives from various service areas across the local authority who are supporting the implementation of Welsh language standards in their respective areas. The latter group is made up of various key stakeholders who promote the Welsh language including Menter Iaith Casnewydd, the Urdd, the 4 local Welsh medium schools' head teachers, Coleg Gwent, Aneurin Bevan Health Board, Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin, and a number of other local Welsh language social groups.

Members were given the opportunity to attend two consultation events, or attend individual meetings.

The consultation responses informed this Strategy and action plan. Respondents told us of the need to be inclusive in promoting the language across communities, to create more Welsh speaking opportunities and in the need to normalise the language around Newport.

Governance

Certain governance arrangements are already in place for implementing the Welsh Education Strategic Plan (the WESP) through the Newport Welsh Education Forum and for implementing the Welsh Language Standards. Governance arrangements will be put in place for this Strategy for an initial period. We will review these arrangements to mainstream them within the governance arrangements for the council's Wellbeing Objectives in 2017, and the Public Service Board's Wellbeing Plan in 2018.

Implementation and Review

This Strategy includes themes, objectives and actions. Many of those actions will be the responsibility of Newport City Council but some will be for other organisations or for us in partnership, and as such will have to be agreed with them. Cabinet receive an annual report on Welsh Language progress.

Evaluation

In line with Welsh language standards we produce an Annual Report each year. Five years after publishing a strategy we will assess to what extent we have followed that strategy and have reached the target set by it. It will contain the following information, to the best available information:

- (i) the number of Welsh speakers in your area, and the age of those speakers;
- (ii) a list of the activities arranged or funded during the previous 5 years in order to promote the use of the Welsh language.

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