

Welsh Language Advisory Panel

8 March 2023 at 2pm
Multi-location meeting

MINUTES AND ACTION POINTS

Present:

Cllr. Glynog Davies	GD	Plaid Cymru (Chair)
Cllr. Andrew Davies	AD	Plaid Cymru
Cllr. Tina Higgins	TH	Labour
Cllr. Peter Hughes-Griffiths	PHG	Plaid Cymru
Cllr. Jean Lewis	JL	Plaid Cymru
Cllr. Liam Bowen	LB	Plaid Cymru
Cllr. Kevin Madge	KM	Labour
Officers		
Paul Thomas	PT	Assistant Chief Executive
Noelwyn Daniel	ND	Head of Information Technology and Policy
Llinos Evans	LLE	Policy and Involvement Manager
Myfanwy Jones	MJ	Welsh Language Policy Officer
Sioned Raymond	SR	Graduate Policy Officer
Mared Pemberton	MP	Program Coordinator

Number	Text and action points	In charge
1.	Welcome and Apologies Cllr. Glynog Davies welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr Sue Allen, Cllr Carys Jones and Gwyneth Ayers.	
2.	Minutes of the last Meeting The minutes were agreed as a true record.	

3. Presentation on the results of the 2021 Census

Martin Parry from the Welsh Government was welcomed to the meeting. Martin leads the Statistics team within Government.

MP explained the context in terms of Census data and the importance of the data in language planning.

The following key points were identified:

- Percentages of children and young people in the other three areas have remained constant but reduced in numbers among older people.
- How Welsh-speaking communities have changed over time –
- Brynaman Area 62.5% -
- Brynaman, Pontyberem, Tumble, Kidwelly, Llanybydder and Cross Hands
- The only county to have seen a decline across all age groups
- Population change –
- 2.2% increase in population, to 187,900 in 2021
- Country of birth – vast majority born in England

MP explained that the Annual Population Survey went in a very different direction to the Census results. First Minister Mark Drakeford has set a task in addressing the reasons for the difference between the results.

Martin was thanked for his detailed presentation and preparation. Detailed context was set to the census results in the county, providing a clear challenge to the Panel and to the Council in terms of future action.

There was discussion about the following points

- How difficult it was to conduct the Census during the pandemic, especially for younger children and families
- Parental assessment on younger children is an important factor among the younger groups.

MP explained that the Office for National Statistics will publish cross tabulation data in the coming weeks which will allow us to cross reference data in terms of the Welsh language with other areas.

It was agreed that the Policy Team would liaise with MP with regard to further analysis in relation to the Census.

KM noted that he had seen extensive demographic changes in his area in recent years and that institutions such as in terms of the Churches and Chapels where Welsh was at its core had declined.

LLE

	<p>However, it has been noted that 2022 was the first time more pupils entered the Welsh stream at Ysgol Dyffryn Aman than the English stream.</p> <p>TH asked what the Council can do to help schools raise the bar for the language following the pandemic?</p> <p>JL noted that seeing the smaller drop in the younger age, was quite encouraging. MP added that there are more children in Welsh-medium education but the numbers don't couple back with the Census results. The team will mirror the Census data and link back to the school data in the coming year to identify which families are less likely to identify as speaking Welsh.</p> <p>There has been a question as to the types of housing stock that attract Welsh speakers and if that can be looked at? They cited the example of the Machynys area, which has seen an increase in the number of Welsh speakers, possibly because of the type of development there.</p> <p>MP noted that the Government will look at how Welsh speakers move in Wales and beyond. They will mirror GP registrations to establish the mobility of people across Wales.</p> <p>KM noted his regret about the influence of social media on young people, which tends to be through the medium of English. The Language Use Survey includes questions for children and young people in terms of use and the results highlight that young people tend to use those platforms through the medium of English.</p> <p>ND asked if it is possible to keep a closer measure of Welsh language data between Census periods? Does the Welsh Government have the power to measure more regularly? There is a risk of undermining public policy in terms of the Welsh language with a few theories about the difference between census results and the Annual Survey.</p> <p>Are people more conscientious in answering the Census because of the formality of those surveys?</p> <p>MP explained that the team will look at the Population Survey and try to couple the results and see who has responded differently to the Census. This will include looking at age groups, different geographies etc.</p> <p>It was also noted that the Office for National Statistics is looking at the Census for the future, which adds more importance in terms of mesur constantly about the Welsh language.</p> <p>It was agreed to circulate a copy of the slides after the meeting.</p> <p>It was agreed to make enquiries in arranging a presentation to the Council's Cabinet.</p> <p>MP was sincerely thanked for his detailed presentation.</p>	<p>LLE</p> <p>LLE</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Panel Terms of Reference</p>	

	<p>LLE outlined the Panel's terms of reference and indicated that they would need to be taken back to Cabinet in order to agree any updates.</p> <p>The following changes were agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change any reference from the Executive Board to Cabinet • Panel membership changed to reflect new Council administration <p>PHG underlined the importance of the presentation received during the meeting, and the challenge it poses to Cabinet and to the Council in terms of implementation.</p> <p>ND explained that the Leader has convened a group with some Cabinet members and officials to analyse the results and plan action by the council.</p> <p>MJ explained that the second Welsh Language Promotion Strategy is currently being prepared and that document will set guidance and challenge to action on a county-by-county basis.</p> <p>There was discussion about the role of the Mentrau Iaith and it was explained that the Mentrau do not work with businesses, following guidance from the Welsh Government.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Arfor 2</p> <p>Mared Pemberton was welcomed to the meeting to present the Arfor 2 scheme.</p> <p>MP explained that £11 million had been allocated through the Collaboration Agreement between the Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru, to ensure a second look to the Programme (ARFOR II) to March 2025.</p> <p>Arfor 2 will run in 4 Counties; Gwynedd, Anglesey, Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire. The scheme aims to support Welsh-speaking communities to thrive through economic activity that also supports the Language.</p> <p>Mared detailed the streams within the programme, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Succeeding locally • Enterprising Communities • ARFOR Challenge Fund • Strengthening the Identity of ARFOR Communities • Learning from the ARFOR Programme <p>It was explained that an Arfor Regional Officer has been appointed to lead on the programme and that an officer will be recruited to each county shortly.</p> <p>It was asked whether the Challenge Fund could support the analysis of census results or any projects that would result from research?</p> <p>It was asked if it would be possible for youth organisations such as the Young Farmers to apply as part of the Enterprising Communities stream?</p> <p>MP indicated that she would be happy to have a chat with Members to get involved in any ideas.</p>	<p>PLACE</p>

	<p>It was agreed to circulate the slides after the meeting. Members were encouraged to look at the opportunities available through the scheme and to share the knowledge within local communities.</p> <p>Mared was thanked for her comprehensive presentation.</p>	Members
6.	<p>Forward work programme</p> <p>There was discussion about a forward programme of work for the Panel.</p> <p>The following items were suggested and agreed for the next meeting –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2 • Presentation by the Mentrau Iaith • Department for Education presentation on support for schools to improve standards for Welsh and school pupil data 	
7.	<p>Any other issue</p> <p>No issues</p>	
8.	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ July 5th, 14:00 ▪ October 11th, 14:00 	