

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**WELSH LANGUAGE CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE**

**7<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024**

**UPDATE ON PROGRESS AGAINST ACTIONS WITHIN THE WELSH LANGUAGE PROMOTION STRATEGY: ARTS SERVICE, LIBRARIES AND ONE4ALL SERVICE, AND THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TEAM**

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR - PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH COUNCILLOR BOB HARRIS, CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES**

**Author: Caroline O'Neill, Head of Arts, Culture and Library Services**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 This report provides an update to Members on progress made against actions within the [Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2022-2027](#).

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is recommended that Members consider the information within this report.

**3. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 To inform Members of the continued work in supporting the delivery of the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy by the Arts Service, Libraries and One4All Service, and the RCT Together Community Development Team.

**4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The Arts Service, Libraries and One4All Service, and the RCT Together Community Development Team support the delivery of the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy through their provision of information and advice, engagement and participation, and programmes and projects.

**5. PROGRESS AGAINST ACTIONS: HIGHLIGHTS**

- 5.1 The Arts Service, Library and One4All Service, and the RCT Together Community Development Team support the delivery of:
- Strategic Area 2: Increasing the use of Welsh in RCT;

- Strategic Area 3: Creating favourable conditions.

5.2 The aim within these Strategic Areas is to work with our partners to:

- increase the use of Welsh socially and within communities;
- support ways of embedding positive language use practices;
- increase opportunities for people to learn and practice the language within their communities.

5.2 An update in relation to each action related to the aforementioned service areas can be seen at Appendix 1.

5.3 Key highlights supporting the delivery of the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy are captured below:

5.3.1 Since 1 April 2022 to end March 2024 over 400 applications for grants of between £1,000 to £200,000 to have been received by the Community Development Team for their Community Grant programme. Eight projects specifically targeting Welsh Language use opportunities have been approved:

- Eisteddfod Genedlaethol
- Menter Iaith RhCT
- Siop Fach Zero
- Cylch Meithrin Penderyn
- Sioe Gerdd Performing Arts Association
- Cylch Meithrin Cilfynydd a Phont Sion Norton
- Artis Cymuned
- Clwb y Bont

5.3.2 [Neighbourhood Networks](#) have community-based Welsh language representation and a new Steering Group, led by Pontypridd Town Council and community organisations and supported by the RCT Together Community Development Team, has been established in Pontypridd with a focus on tracking and developing Welsh language activities.

5.3.3 Developing Welsh language participatory and presented programming within the community and at Gartholwg Lifelong Learning Centre, Park and Dare Theatre and Coliseum Theatre, including the youth-focused Gen Z Fest, Summer and Christmas fayres, and employment skills programmes.

5.3.4 Exploring the possibility of producing and touring a Welsh language production across the region following its presentation at the Eisteddfod

Genedlaethol in August 2024. The production and tour of 'Cysgu 'Da Mickey' – a translation of Rhondda-born playwright Frank Vickery's 'Sleeping with Mickey' – beyond its presentation at the Eisteddfod Genedlaethol, will be subject to securing additional Arts Council of Wales funding.

- 5.3.5 Within libraries, Welsh speaking staff providing Welsh language stories and craft sessions, as well as a variety of Welsh language activities offered by external partners, including:

Baby and Toddler Group

Welsh Learner Classes

Bore Coffi

Cymraeg i Blant

Stori Cymru

Babis Bach

- 5.3.6 The Schools Library Service offering bilingual class visits, and Welsh speaking staff engaging with schools during library visits from Welsh Language Primary schools.

- 5.3.7 All services engaging with the Eisteddfod Genedlaethol by supporting local appeal committees; advising on fundraising events; developing a programme of content such as producing a bilingual display of the history of the Eisteddfod in RCT; and participating in preparations and legacy discussions.

## **6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY**

- 6.1 There are no implications as a direct result of this report.

## **7. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no Welsh language implications as a result of this report.

## **8. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT**

- 8.1 There are no consultation implications as a result of this report.

## **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

## **10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

- 10.1 There are no legal implications as a result of this report.

## **11. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.**

11.1 The aforementioned service areas contribute to all four of the well-being objectives within the Council's Corporate Plan:

- **People and Communities:** supporting and empowering residents and communities to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives;
- **Work and Business:** helping to strengthen and grow RCT's economy, with thriving town centres and a well-connected County Borough;
- **Nature and the Environment:** supporting a clean, safe and sustainable RCT;
- **Culture and Heritage:** recognising and celebrating RCT's past, present and future where culture and heritage are vibrant, preserved and recognised as enhancing well-being.

11.2 The Service reflects the five ways of working in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, considering long-term needs, focusing on collaboration and involvement of communities, contributing specifically to a Wales of cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language goals of the Act.

## **12. STRATEGIC OR RELEVANT TO ELECTORAL WARDS**

12.1 The services deliver across the whole of the County Borough.

## **13. CONCLUSIONS**

13.1 The Arts Service, Libraries and One4All Service, and the RCT Together Community Development Team have made progress in support of the delivery of the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy through their provision of information and advice, engagement and participation, and programmes and projects.

13.2 The service areas are involved in discussions in relation to preparation and legacy of the 2024 Eisteddfod Genedlaethol, developing further opportunities for people to engage in Welsh language activity within their communities.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

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**Background Papers:**

None

**Officer to contact:**

Caroline O'Neill, Head of Arts, Culture and Library Services