

Language Strategy Working Group

Friday, 12th August, 2022

MEETING OF LANGUAGE STRATEGY WORKING GROUP HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillors McMullan and Spratt.
Councillor McLaughlin (on behalf
of Councillor Walsh).

In attendance: Ms. N.Largey, City Solicitor
Mr. M. Johnston, Language Officer;
Mr. C. McGuigan, Irish Language Officer;
Ms. C. Donnelly, Democratic Services Officer;
Mrs. G. Boyd, Democratic Services Officer; and
Ms. R. Budd (Interpreter)

Apologies

Apologies for an inability to attend were reported on behalf of Councillors Kyle and O'Hara.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 10th June were taken as read and signed as correct.

Revised Thematic Draft Action Plan

The City Solicitor apologised to the Working Group for the lateness of the reports and advised that Members were welcome to offer feedback at a later stage, once they had had adequate time to review the contents and consult with their respective Party. She advised that a meeting of the Working Group would be held on Friday, 26th August to afford Members the opportunity to consult their respective Parties and offer views at that stage.

The Irish Language Officer referred to the report which had been circulated to the Members and advised that the purpose of the report was to provide an update in relation to the progress which had been achieved on the implementation of the Language Strategy; to present the Draft Language Strategy Action Plan that had been redrafted according to themes; and to consider the terms of reference for a Sign Languages Stakeholders' Forum, which had been agreed by the Strategic Policy and Resources

Committee at its meeting on 17th June. He advised Members of the ongoing work on the action plan and advised those Members present to give any initial feedback if they wished to provide. The Members asked for details of how this work would be taken forward and details of the governance arrangements for the work. The City Solicitor advised Members that these details would be included in the report that would be presented to the group on 26th August.

Noted.

Terms of Reference for Sign Languages Stakeholders' Forum

The Language Strategy Officer outlined the Terms of Reference for the sign language stakeholders' forum. A Member asked for further information on a timeline for the rollout of sign language training for staff. The Language strategy officer advised that he would bring updated information on a pathway for effective training to the meeting of the group on 26th August.

Noted.

Draft Irish Language Policy

The Irish language officer advised that the purpose of the report was to present to the Working Group an initial draft of the Council's draft Irish Language Policy. He asked Members to consider the policy and to bring back views to the meeting on 26th August.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

Community Stakeholder Forums

The Members were advised that information on the stakeholders' forums would be brought to the next meeting of the group scheduled for 26th August.

Noted.

Next Steps and Date of Next Meeting

The Members advised officers that they would consult with their respective Parties and bring back views to the next meeting of the group scheduled for 26th August.

Chairperson