



Subject:	Language Strategy: Elected Member Working Group - Draft Terms of Reference
Date:	22nd October, 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Sarah Williams, Governance and Compliance Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek the Committee's approval of the draft Terms of Reference for the Elected Member Language Strategy Working Group and the proposed approach.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to approve the draft Terms of Reference of the Elected Member Language Strategy Working Group and the proposed approach.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Background The Committee will be aware that, at its meeting, it agreed to establish an Elected Member Working Group to take forward the Language Strategy. Since then, an internal officer working group has met several times to carry out the planning stage for taking forward the implementation of the Language Strategy through the Elected Member Working Group.

3.2	<p>Key Issues</p> <p><u>Terms of Reference</u></p> <p>A set of draft Terms of Reference for the Language Strategy Working Group is attached, which the Working Group will be asked to agree at its first meeting.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Nominations</u></p> <p>Democratic Services will seek nominations for the membership of the Working Group this month.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Meetings</u></p> <p>The first introductory meeting will be held in November to agree the Terms of Reference and provide an overview and introduction to the Language Strategy, the key issues and the work undertaken to date. A second meeting will be held in December in the form of a facilitated workshop to allow the Working Group to discuss and agree the overall approach for taking forward the Language Strategy.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Regional Context</u></p> <p>The Department for Communities has recently established an Irish Language Strategy Expert Advisory Panel and an Ulster-Scots Language, Heritage and Culture Strategy Expert Advisory Panel to advise DfC on the direction and development of two new strategies in these areas. This work will be cognisant of developments in this area and the Irish Language Officer has already been invited to engage with the Irish Language Strategy Expert Advisory Panel.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Other Language Strategy-related Work</u></p> <p>As Members will be aware, the officers working on this piece of work are also co-ordinating the public consultation of the Dual Language Street Sign Policy and the accompanying EQIA during this period which may affect timelines due to resourcing issues. The Elected Member Language Strategy Working Group will be kept updated on the progress of this consultation and any emerging issues effecting the planned timelines.</p>
3.9	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>This work will be covered by existing budgets however the Language Strategy Action Plan as it develops may require additional financial resources which will be requested through the usual Revenue Estimates process.</p>

	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.10	The promotion of equality of opportunity and good relations are key principles within which the Language Strategy is delivered. The Language Strategy was subject to the Council's usual screening process.
4.0	Document Attached
	Draft Terms of Reference for the Elected Member Language Strategy Working Group