

Agenda – Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee meeting via Zoom

Meeting date: 5 November 2020

Meeting time: 09.30

For further information contact:

Rhys Morgan

Committee Clerk

0300 200 6565

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Pre-Meeting registration

(09:00 – 09:30)

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

2 National Development Framework 2020–2040

(09.30 – 10.30)

(Pages 1 – 23)

Dyfan Sion, Welsh Language Commission

Dylan Foster-Evans, Welsh Place-Names Society

Wyn Thomas, Dyfodol i'r Iaith

Robat Idris, Cymdeithas yr Iaith

Break

(10.30 – 10.45)



3 COVID-19: impact of the outbreak on live music

(10.45 – 11.45)

(Pages 24 – 37)

Guto Brychan, Clwb Ifor Bach

Samantha Dabb, Le Pub

Dilwyn Llwyd, Neuadd Ogwen

Gary Lulham, Sin City

4 Paper(s) to note

4.1 Correspondence with Welsh Government on support for culture, heritage and journalism

(Pages 38 – 41)

5 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the remainder of the meeting

6 COVID-19: impact of the outbreak on the arts – discussion of evidence from stakeholder session

(11.45–11.55)

(Pages 42 – 55)

7 Who gets remembered in public spaces? Consideration of next steps

(11.55 – 12.00)

(Pages 56 – 57)

8 Private Debrief

(12.00 –12.15)

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National Development Framework Team
Planning Policy Branch
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15/11/2019

Dear Colleague,

Consultation on the draft National Development Framework

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the consultation on the draft *National Development Framework*. My comments focus on matters relating to the Welsh language. I support many aspects of this document and I would also like to highlight some elements which could be refined.

The positive aspects include the following intentions noted in the Framework:

- ensuring the prosperity of the Welsh language and supporting an increase in the number of speakers
- managing development in order to protect Welsh as a community language
- linking sustainable development with the Welsh language, communities and the economy

The following are among the matters requiring further attention:

- how development should be managed in order to protect the Welsh language and enhance opportunities to use the language locally and nationally
- the link between education and development, including local authorities' Welsh in Education Strategic Plans

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- the importance of some counties and regions to the prosperity of the Welsh language and the potential for collaboration between them as strongholds of the Welsh language
- the significance, for the entire Framework, of the statement that Welsh is a living language which is spoken in all parts of Wales
- the link between development and the policy making standards and promotion standards imposed on local authorities through the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011

Places with a thriving Welsh Language

I welcome the fact that the Framework's Outcomes include an objective to develop "A Wales where people live in places with a thriving Welsh Language" (Outcome 4). This Outcome supports the Welsh Government's aim of ensuring a million Welsh speakers in Wales by 2050. It is stated that the Framework also supports the target of increasing the percentage of people who speak Welsh daily by 10% by 2050. These are targets from the Government's *Cymraeg 2050* strategy and I encourage you to refer directly to this strategy and to incorporate its themes and objectives in the Framework.

Outcome 4 states the following: "Where Welsh is the everyday language of the community, development will be managed to ensure there are jobs and homes to enable the language to remain central to those communities' identities. Elsewhere, education authorities will lead in developing infrastructure to enable the language to develop as a natural, thriving part of communities." I support the first of these objectives but I am concerned that it suggests that development will only be managed in a way which supports the Welsh language in those areas in which Welsh is an everyday language. The Framework should elaborate not only on how development should be managed in order to protect the Welsh language and enhance opportunities to speak the language, but how this should be done in all parts of the country. With regard to the second objective, I believe that what is expected from education authorities needs to be specified.

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The Framework should highlight the link between the duties of local authorities in terms of development and their Welsh in Education Strategic Plans. In August this year I responded to the Government's consultation on the Draft Development Plans Manual (Edition 3). In that response, I noted that the Government, in its Draft Regulations for Welsh in Education Strategic Plans published on 30 May 2019, expressed a wish for local authorities to demonstrate a commitment to the targets in *Cymraeg 2050*. I recommended that local authorities should take this into account when drawing up long-term plans for the development of their local areas. The Framework should refer to the link between education and development, in the context of community and economy, considering their importance to the themes of *Cymraeg 2050*.

The NDF Spatial Strategy

I welcome the support in the Framework's spatial strategy for sustainable development and the link made to the Welsh language, communities and the economy. I note that this reflects a recommendation in *Cymraeg 2050*, namely: "The land use planning system should contribute to the vitality of the Welsh language by creating suitable conditions for thriving, sustainable communities." I referred to this principle in my response to the consultation on the Draft Development Plans Manual (Edition 3) and it remains valid in terms of this Framework. In relation to this, I emphasised the importance of linguistic planning to ensure the sustainability of rural Welsh-speaking communities in my response in October 2019 to the Government's consultation on *Sustainable Farming and our Land*¹ by saying:

"Language planning for the sustainability of rural Welsh-speaking communities should therefore be an integral part of the Welsh Government's plans and policies for the future of farming in Wales."

1

<http://www.comisiynyddygybraeg.cymru/English/Publications%20List/20190712%20LL%20S%20Ffermio%20cynhaliadwy%20an%20Tir.pdf>

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I should emphasise that those comments are wholly relevant to this consultation as well.

Regional centres

The Framework lists a number of regional centres which are considered important. It is noted that specific policies in Strategic and Local Development Plans should be used to retain and enhance the commercial and public service base that makes them focal points in their areas. The list includes Carmarthen, Aberystwyth and Caernarfon. These towns are focal points in the counties of Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Gwynedd, three of the counties which have the highest percentages of Welsh speakers in Wales (43.9% – 65.4%), according to figures from the 2011 Census. The Framework should highlight this fact, in the context of its commitments to the Welsh language. It should also be ensured that the Framework, by emphasising these centres, does not undermine other centres in the same regions or smaller more rural communities in these areas. Considering the pressures on services in rural areas, including education and public transport, care must be taken to avoid centralising resources in centres that are not within easy reach for all and in so doing undermine the viability of smaller communities.

Anglesey is the only other county where the percentage of Welsh speakers is within the same range as the three counties noted above. Anglesey is referred to in the context of developing the port of Holyhead and new energy, to ensure growth and support local and regional communities. Once again, in the context of the Framework's commitments to the Welsh language it should be highlighted that this county has one of the highest percentages of Welsh speakers in Wales. It should also be noted that inter-regional collaboration is important in terms of the Welsh language. Collaboration between local authorities for the benefit of the Welsh language should not be limited, especially between authorities where there is a significant number of Welsh speakers. One example of such cooperation is, of course, the Arfor initiative.

It should also be emphasised that the aim of ensuring a million Welsh speakers is relevant to Wales in its entirety. I welcome the fact that a statement is made, in the case of each

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region, that development plans should consider the relationship between housing, transport, economic growth and the Welsh language. Education should be added to this list, for the reasons I outlined above. In the case of the Mid and South West Wales region, specific reference is made to Strategic and Local Development Plans. I encourage you to refer to both types of plan in the case of the other regions too, to ensure consistency. For the same reason, the infographic at the beginning of each section about an individual region in the Framework should refer to the Welsh language. Although the numbers for each region are included in Chapter 2, in the case of the infographics the North Wales region's is the only one which refers to the number of Welsh speakers. The Framework in its entirety should reflect the statement in Chapter 2 that Welsh is a living language, with speakers across all parts of the nation. I welcome the reference to the increase in the number of Welsh speakers in the South East region and I believe it is important to highlight such growth to local authorities.

Welsh Language Standards

I suggest that the Framework refers to the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the standards which derive from it, which place duties on local authorities in respect of the Welsh language. It should be noted that local authorities are required to prepare development plans and policies in the context of the standards. I refer specifically to the policy making standards and promotion standards. The policy making standards relate to the consideration of the effects of policy decisions made by organisations on the Welsh language. They note, for example, that when formulating a new policy or reviewing an existing policy, organisations must consider what effects the policy decision would have on people's opportunities to use the Welsh language and treat the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language. They place a duty on organisations to consider how to formulate a policy or change a policy so that it has a positive impact on the Welsh language and so that it does not have adverse effects on the language.

The promotion standards place a duty on organisations to produce and publish a 5-year strategy for promoting the Welsh language and facilitating use of the language, including a

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target for increasing or maintaining the number of Welsh speakers in the area. My office has issued guidance on this matter, *Standards relating to promoting the Welsh language: 5-year strategies: a best practice guide for county and county borough councils and National Park authorities.*² The guidance refers to the themes underpinning strong strategies, including some of the obvious aspects of planning, namely communities and the economy. I referred to these standards in my response to the consultation on the Draft Development Plans Manual (Edition 3). The Framework should refer to these strategies in the context of its support for the objectives of *Cymraeg 2050* and in the context of Welsh in Education Strategic Plans which are discussed above. I should also note that there is some uncertainty about the exact democratic accountability and governance of many regional structures. This is a matter of concern considering the duties placed on the majority of Welsh public sector organisations in accordance with the Welsh language standards. I would not wish the emphasis placed on regional working to undermine these duties.

Finally, I would like to request clarity regarding the way in which the Framework will be monitored and how success will be measured when aiming for the desired Outcomes. I trust my comments will be useful to you as you produce the final Framework.

Yours faithfully,

Aled Roberts

Welsh Language Commissioner

Copy to: Welsh Language Division, Welsh Government

²

[http://www.comisiynyddygyymraeg.cymru/English/Publications%20List/20181031%20GC%20Standards%20relating%20to%20promoting%20the%20Welsh%20language%20\(S\)%20-%20Final.pdf](http://www.comisiynyddygyymraeg.cymru/English/Publications%20List/20181031%20GC%20Standards%20relating%20to%20promoting%20the%20Welsh%20language%20(S)%20-%20Final.pdf)

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Agenda Item 3

By virtue of paragraph(s) vii of Standing Order 17.42

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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref DET/361/20

Helen Mary Jones MS
Chair
Culture, Welsh Language and Communications
Committee

27 October 2020

Dear Helen Mary

FURTHER INFORMATION ON SUPPORT FOR THE CULTURE, SPORT AND TOURISM PORTFOLIO

Thank you for your letter of 29 September which I received on 5 October in which you ask for some further detail on some of the areas we covered in the Committee's session of 17 September.

Thank you for your acknowledgement of the invaluable role that Creative Wales is already playing in terms of providing information and support to the sector. I will answer the other points you raise in the order you have set them out.

Funding

The Welsh Government announced a £53m Cultural Recovery Fund in July to provide essential support to theatres, music venues, heritage sites, museums, galleries and independent cinemas who have all seen a dramatic loss of revenue due to the Covid-19 pandemic. I released a Written Statement last week providing an update to members on this fund. A plan is in place for the evaluation of the programme which will report at the end of the scheme.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

In announcing this funding in July we were very clear that this was additional support to the sector following the £18m package that was announced in early April across my wider portfolio and the other funding support that has been available, such as the Economic Resilience Fund.

We are aware of the high demand for the Cultural Recovery Fund, particularly with regards the recently launched freelance fund, and are exploring options to secure additional resource to meet this demand. We continue to work with all our stakeholders to support the sector through this extremely difficult period and funding for our national institutions will be kept under review as part of ongoing financial management as we progress through the year.

Access to heritage sites

1) You asked for recent figures showing what percentage of the usual visitor numbers can be accommodated – and have visited – Cadw sites and the National Museum Wales venues since the lockdown restrictions were eased.

Cadw began the phased reopening of our staffed sites on 4 August and this took place throughout August and September. Each monument has a different capacity due to differing sizes and layouts. Due to the Welsh Government Covid regulations, the actual visitor number that could be safely accommodated at staffed sites was initially set at 30% of the average daily visitor number for the site for the same month last year. This was in line with expectations across the heritage sector.

Visitor numbers are controlled by the introduction of online ticketing. The limits on numbers have been raised incrementally on a site by site basis as sites have developed and become more confident with their precautions.

The number of visitors in August 2020 was 48,898. This is a decline of 78% on August 2019, which saw 218,190 visitors. This was not surprising as no single site was open for the whole of the month and we were unable to open some sites at all.

The number of visitors in September 2020 was 49,078. This is a decline of 57% on September 2019, which saw 114,828 visitors. The majority of our sites were open throughout September but with reduced opening hours.

Some staffed Cadw sites (including some of the larger monuments) have now shut down again due to local restrictions introduced in September and October.

2) You asked whether access to Cadw sites and National Museum Wales venues is being actively managed - that is, is it possible to give priority to certain groups such as school children? If so, how have you identified priority groups and how was priority access managed?

Access to ticketed sites is managed by a booking system. Visitors need to prebook tickets either online or by telephone. Cadw continues to offer reduced price entry to the following groups: junior (age 5-17), senior (age 65+), disabled, NUS students, veterans and armed forces members. Group visits are limited to a maximum of 30 people, in line with Welsh Government policy.

Cadw has always worked to accommodate group visits from schools, clubs, organisations, and tour operators.

Pre-pandemic, educational visits to the sites were numerous, but there is now little demand from schools. Cadw's sites reopened in August when schools were closed, and during September schools were adjusting to being open again and adapting to new ways of operating. This no longer includes regular excursions to external sites.

However, school children are being prioritised in terms of online access to Cadw sites and resources. Schools are developing new and creative approaches to teaching. Cadw's Lifelong Learning Team is responding to this by prioritising new resources for schools including :

- online Skype session with a costumed character in Plas Mawr for over 100 children who usually visit our sites, together with accompanying worksheets and activities;
- sponsoring the online Children's Festival of Welsh History <http://www.gwylhanes.cymru/index-en.php>. The films, which include BSL, will be available on the website for a year;
- creating more digital resources and activities such as Minecraft, filmed walkthroughs and 360° films. Filming has already taken place at Denbigh castle;
- creating the 15 minute heritage digital mission to inspire schools to investigate their immediate heritage; this is being piloted with families and schools in the Gwynedd Fusion area;
- Conwy Castle opened its doors to a small group of vulnerable families whilst the castle was closed to the public over the summer. This provided a safe place for staff to catch up with families at a social distance and for vulnerable families to have some 'free play' time in a safe environment;
- launching Digital Open Doors in September, allowing people to visit Neolithic tombs, castles, abbeys and ironworks virtually.

3) We discussed the drop in visitor numbers to heritage sites and museums. Are you able to provide us with recent figures showing what percentage of the usual visitor numbers can be accommodated – and have visited – Cadw sites and the National Museum Wales venues since the lockdown restrictions were eased?

NMW reduced the overall capacity for each museum to allow for social distancing. Each museum has different physical context that has to be factored into this but on average it meant revised Covid capacity was around 30% of normal as NMW has also been operating on reduced days. In addition, NMW had phased opening between 4 August (when the grounds of St Fagans opened) and 3 September. Up until late September (when NMW reclosed due to local restrictions some of the internal offers such as NRLM, NMC<NWMS and BP), NMW has under these reduced operations, around 40K visitors, which is around 43% of the maximum capacity as an average across all our museums of the maximum possible Covid capacity. Some museums had around 70% take up others averaged around 35%. NMW also saw fluctuations in levels of visiting when the summer holidays finished as well as usual factors such as weather.

Journalism and local media

A vibrant media sector is an essential component of a modern democratic society, and media organisations play a crucial role informing people across Wales. The global COVID-19 pandemic in particular has highlighted the importance of access to accurate local news and information and brought into sharp focus the challenges the media sector is facing. I have asked Creative Wales to explore options for strengthening the media presence in Wales. This work will include engagement with stakeholders in the industry and consider both English and Welsh language print and digital media. The newly formed Creative Wales Non-executive Board will play a key part in this work. We will use the advice of the newly formed Creative Wales Non-executive Board to inform this work.

I have asked officials to present their findings to me by the end of this financial year with a view to introducing support, as agreed through this exercise and in the context of appropriate government intervention, in 2021. As yet, no decisions have been taken on the budget for this as the level of financial commitment will be dependent on key findings, decisions taken on the form any support might take and in line with wider decisions on budget allocation.

Community Radio

Community radio stations are an important part of the broadcasting landscape, helping to ensure people in Wales have access to news and information of on what is going on in their communities. We will continue to provide support to community radio stations through a range of business support mechanisms, including through Business Wales support. We will explore opportunities to maximise access to these WG funding schemes, and will work with Ofcom ensure as many eligible community radio stations as possible benefit from their Community Radio Fund.

I hope you will find this further information helpful

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Elis-Thomas'.

Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism

Agenda Item 6

By virtue of paragraph(s) vi of Standing Order 17.42

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Agenda Item 7

By virtue of paragraph(s) vi of Standing Order 17.42

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