

Language Strategy Working Group

Thursday, 8th August, 2024

LANGUAGE STRATEGY WORKING GROUP MINUTES HELD IN PERSON AND REMOTELY

- Members present: Councillor Walsh (Chairperson);
Alderman Rodgers; and
Councillor Whyte.
- Also attended: Councillor Doran for Councillor R. Brooks.
- In attendance: Ms. N. Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and
Civic Services;
Ms. C. Donnelly, Committee Services Officer.

Election of Chairperson

The Working Group noted that it was required to elect a Chairperson for the coming year.

Moved by Councillor Walsh,
Seconded by Councillor Doran, and

Resolved – that Councillor Walsh be elected to serve as Chairperson to the Language Strategy Working Group until the date of the Annual Meeting.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported for Councillors R. Brooks and Long.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 16th May, 2024 were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Update on Irish Language Policy Consultation

The City Solicitor provided the working group with an update on the Irish Language Policy Consultation and provided an overview of the following consultation and engagement plans:

Staff

- Anonymous Survey for all staff;
- JNCC (Joint Negotiating and Consultative Committee);
- Your Say Survey (online, hard copy and QR codes on payslips);
- Interlink articles; and
- Two in-person sessions in City Hall.

Broader Community Engagement

- Online engagement sessions;
- Physical engagement sessions – including St. Mary’s College bilingual session;
- Stakeholders forum – in Irish with translation headsets;
- Event in An Droichead for Irish speakers;
- Event in 2 Royal Avenue;
- Article in City Matters; and
- Online engagement with schools and universities.

The City Solicitor explained that she expected a significant response to the consultation and that it was therefore anticipated, dependent on the number of responses received, that they would be processed by spring, 2025 and that subsequently, any concerns would need to be addressed and an EQIA and Rural Needs Assessment would also need to be carried out.

She stated that the cost of the consultation would be met through existing budgets.

The Working Group noted the update.

Chairperson