

Language Strategy Action Plan October 2017 – March 2018

Appendix 3

Accessibility

Documents are available, on request, in alternative formats - Braille, audio, large print, easy read. The council will also consider requests to produce it in other languages. If you require the Action Plan in these or other formats please contact us:

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Belfast
City Council

Purpose – what is the Language Strategy Action Plan for?

Belfast aims to be a welcoming and inclusive city for all. To help achieve this aim and to meet other best practice guidance and legal requirements, we want to develop and implement a Language Strategy. The development of a Language Strategy came in response to public consultation on a draft Linguistic Diversity Policy, the forerunner to the Language Strategy.

The consultation revealed how extraordinarily diverse the needs and aspirations of the various language communities that currently exist in Belfast are, and how any single policy simply cannot ignore the different priorities and issues that each community has articulated. Nonetheless the steps the Council has taken to plan strategically for the diverse needs and aspirations were welcomed by many as a positive step forward in Belfast being a welcoming and inclusive city.

The Language Strategy will be developed and then implemented through a staged approach, central to which is the development of one year action plans which will be presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

This is the first action plan presented in the development of the Language Strategy, it includes priority actions from the preliminary recommendations made during the consultation. Delivery of these actions should take place in October – December 2017 (Q3) and January – March 2018 (Q4).

Area of focus/ priority	Activities	Q3	Q4
1 Further develop a strategic approach to linguistic diversity	1.1 Agree resourcing for developing a strategic approach to linguistic diversity, including re-branding, delivery of the related action plans and membership of an internal working group	✓	
	1.2 Agree the accountability and governance structures for development and delivery of the strategic approach to linguistic diversity and associated action plans	✓	
	1.3 Analyse consultees responses in relation to context and rationale and update with desk based research into current legislation and guidance	✓	
	1.4 Review the overarching principles of the proposed Language Framework, including further reference to the positive benefits attached to linguistic diversity and bi-lingualism	✓	
	1.5 Assess the scope of a second post related to accessible and inclusive communications	✓	
	1.6 Prepare a costed one year action plan 2018-19 and submit for approval		✓

Area of focus/ priority	Activities	Q 3	Q 4
<p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p>Implement recommendations related to the Irish Language</p>	2.1 Meet with Foras na Gaeilge regarding part-funding for an Irish Language Officer, and take forward actions to secure part-funding	✓	
	2.2 Develop a job description for an Irish Language Officer and assess requirement of post through agreed job evaluation mechanisms to determine pay scale	✓	
	2.3 Recruit an Irish Language Officer	✓	
	2.4 Consider the priority needs and aspirations of the Irish language community, utilising appropriate engagement mechanisms for outreach activities and pilot actions.	✓	
	2.5 Scope operational impact and resource requirement of identified priority needs and aspirations of the Irish language community	✓	
	2.6 Prepare a costed one year action plan 2018-19 and submit for approval		✓

Area of focus/ priority	Activities	Q 3	Q 4
<p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Implement recommendations related to the Ulster- Scots Language</p>	3.1 Consider the priority needs and aspirations of the Ulster-Scots language community, utilising appropriate engagement mechanisms for outreach activities and pilot actions.	✓	
	3.2 Scope operational impact and resource requirement of identified priority needs and aspirations of the Ulster-Scots language community	✓	
	3.3 Prepare a costed one year action plan 2018-19 and submit for approval		✓
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Implement recommendations related to New Communities</p>	4.1 Consider the priority needs and aspirations of New Communities, utilising appropriate engagement mechanisms for outreach activities and pilot actions.	✓	
	4.2 Scope operational impact and resource requirement of identified priority needs and aspirations of New Communities.	✓	
	4.3 Prepare a costed one year action plan 2018-19 and submit for approval		✓

Area of focus/ priority	Activities	Q3	Q4
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Implement recommendations related to Sign Language</p>	5.1 Consider the priority needs and aspirations of the Sign Language community, utilising appropriate engagement mechanisms for outreach activities and pilot actions.	✓	
	5.2 Scope operational impact and resource requirement of identified priority needs and aspirations of the Sing Language community	✓	
	5.3 Prepare a costed one year action plan 2018-19 and submit for approval		✓
<p style="text-align: center;">6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Implement recommendations related to Disabled People</p>	6.1 Consider the priority needs and aspirations of disabled people in relation to communication and language, utilising appropriate engagement mechanisms for outreach activities and pilot actions.	✓	
	6.2 Scope operational impact and resource requirement of identified priority needs and aspirations of disabled people in relation to communication and language	✓	
	6.3 Prepare a costed one year action plan 2018-19 and submit for approval		✓