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| Subject: | Language Strategy Update and Launch |
| Date: | 20th April 2018 |
| Reporting Officer: | John Walsh, City Solicitor |
| Contact Officer: | Lorraine Dennis, Equality and Diversity Officer |

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| 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"/> |
| Some time in the future | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Never | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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

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| 1.0 | Purpose of report or summary of main issues |
| 1.1 | To update Members on the Language Strategy, which is a rebrand of the draft Linguistic Diversity Policy. |
| 2.0 | Recommendations |
| 2.1 | The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Note the update provided• Approve the launch event on 14 May |

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| 3.0 | Main report |
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| 3.1 | <p>Members will be aware that at the meeting of the Strategic and Policy Resources meeting on 22 September 2017 approval was given to implement the recommendations on the draft Linguistic Diversity Policy. The recommendations presented to members followed a period of public consultation, which ran from 23 May to 18 July 2017, and a number of key priorities were included in an action plan to run from October 2017 until March 2018.</p> |
| 3.2 | <p>An update on some of the key priorities are outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebrand of draft Linguistic Diversity Policy to a Language Strategy is complete and now incorporates consultee comments and revisions from the consultation period. An event is scheduled to take place on Monday 14 May 2018 when the Language Strategy will be launched by the Lord Mayor. The keynote speaker’s message will focus on the challenges and opportunities which linguistic diversity brings in achieving the Belfast Agenda outcomes. • The recruitment of an Irish Language Officer and Language Officer is underway, with part funding now secured for the Irish Language Officer. Advertisement of both posts is scheduled for mid-May. |
| 3.3 | <p>Engagement with different language communities and key stakeholders, as outlined in the action plan, has been limited. These actions are included in the 2017/18 action plan, which now needs to run until September 2018 to allow for delivery.</p> |
| 3.4 | <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Cost of the launch event and activities related to the Language Strategy are covered within existing budgets.</p> |
| 3.5 | <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>The promotion of equality of opportunity and good relations are key principles within which the Language Strategy is delivered. The screening document was included as part of the public consultation and comments incorporated into an updated screening.</p> |
| 4.0 | Appendices – Documents Attached |
| | None |