



Subject:	Language Strategy Action Plan 2018-20
Date:	21 June 2019
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Lorraine Dennis, Equality and Diversity Officer Colm McGuigan Irish Language officer

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"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To update Committee on progress made in delivery of the Language Strategy Action Plan 2018-20 and to give an overview of planned activities.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note progress made and planned activities for delivery
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The Council's Language Strategy runs from 2018-23, most recently the Action Plan from October 2018 to run through until March 2020 was approved by this committee on 23 November 2018.

3.2	<p>Delivery of the approved actions is through an Irish Language Officer and Language Officer. Since the last report there has been a wide range of work carried out, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the West Belfast Irish Language Network/Líonra Gaeilge Iarthar Bhéal Feirste and in a delegation to the Ulster Folk Museum to discuss the use of Irish in museum exhibits. • Launch of the Sign Video Pilot scheme and Sign Language Videos to the Tropical Ravine and the Visitors' Exhibition at City Hall.
3.3	<p>Ongoing production of a film under the theme of 'Valuing Language', with a cross section of language communities throughout the city.</p>
3.4	<p>The Language Strategy Action Plan 2018-20 is an ambitious document and is delivered throughout the city. One of the main aims of the Strategy was alignment with the Belfast Agenda and networks are currently under development to bring collaborative gain to our understanding of languages in Belfast and how it links to a range of topics including the economy, racism and culture.</p>
3.5	<p>A summary of events and activities for delivery between now and March 2020, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irish language intensive course and family event with Féile an Phobail (August) • Valuing Language event, including film launch (closed screening for Members prior to public launch September /October) • International Day for People with Disabilities (December) • Burns Week (January) • International Mother Tongue Day (February) • Seachtain na Gaeilge/Irish Language Week (March) • Internally audit of related policies and staff capacity building
3.6	<p>Projects reflecting our indigenous languages and our sense of place are under development, and will include booklets and community activities. Information leaflets on different services available to users of languages other than English will be developed for distribution internally and externally making people aware of what services are available</p>
3.7	<p>There is a fuller update of actions taken against the objectives of the Action Plan extracted and shown in Appendix 1, many of which will be communicated to new and existing audiences.</p>

<p>3.8</p> <p>3.9</p>	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Costs will be met from existing budgets</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The Language Strategy Action Plan 2018-20 was screened out with mitigations, and is developed from a need to promote equality of opportunity and good relations within linguistic diversity. There were no rural needs impacts.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p> <p>Appendix 1 – Progress and planned activities against agreed objectives from Language Strategy Action Plan 2018-20.</p>