



**Snowdonia National Park Authority**  
**Supplementary Planning Guidance**  
**Planning and the Welsh Language**  
*Adopted Version*  
**June 2021**

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# **SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**



## **SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE: PLANNING AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE**

**June 2021**

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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This guidance note is one of a series of Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) documents which provides further detailed information on how policies contained in the Eryri Local Development Plan (ELDP) (2016-2031) will be applied in practice by the National Park Authority. The Supplementary Planning Guidance is intended to give more detail on specific issues than is possible or appropriate in the Eryri Local Development Plan. Whilst interpreting this guidance regard should be given to other policies within the ELDP. The SPG has undertaken, and passed, an equality impact assessment.

### **Purpose**

- 1.2 The purpose of the Supplementary Planning Guidance is:
- To provide detailed guidance about the manner in which the Planning Authority will deal with developments which may have an effect on the future of the Welsh language within communities.
  - To provide guidance to assist officers and members in determining planning applications.

## Status

- 1.3 This Supplementary Planning Guidance will be a material planning consideration when decisions are made on planning applications.
- 1.4 This Supplementary Planning Guidance Note (SPG) has been produced to support the policies within the Eryri Local Development Plan (2016 – 2031).
- 1.5 In accordance with good practice, applicants are encouraged to discuss applications with officers, beforehand, in order to decide what kind of language assessment needs to be prepared.
- 1.6 The most relevant policies in the Eryri LDP are:

- **Development Policy 18: The Welsh Language and the Social and Cultural fabric of communities**
- **Strategic Policy A: National Park Purposes and Sustainable Development**

## 2 SETTING THE CONTEXT

- 2.1 The Welsh Language is one of the ‘Special Qualities of the National Park and the language is an integral element in the fabric of communities locally and is a reflection of their traditions and culture. To ensure that communities develop in a sustainable manner, it is essential, when contemplating change, to consider all the factors influencing the situation and that new development being planned is appropriate and relevant. The town and country planning process regulates new developments and is therefore one important and influential element in the shaping of change in society.
- 2.2 The Welsh language is an important planning consideration in the creation of land use policies and in the decision making process on planning applications. However, the exact effect of an individual development on language over a period of time is a matter that is difficult to analyse and prove decisively. This guidance attempts to address the problem by viewing communities in a holistic manner, giving due regard to language as an element which is an integral part of community activity and life. This can be considered as a sustainable methodology in which a number of economic, social, cultural and environmental elements influence one another and where change in one dimension impinges on another.
- 2.3 This is achieved in the document by establishing, in two stages, a more analytic methodology for assessing the impact of different kinds and scale of development on communities and language. It is the responsibility of applicants for planning permission to conform to these guidelines and to produce sufficient information to enable the Planning Authority to arrive at a decision about an individual application.
- 2.4 The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 made provision for the official status of the Welsh language in Wales and created a new legislative framework. The measure establishes the principle that the Welsh language is not to be regarded as less favourable than the English language.
- 2.5 This was highlighted further in the Planning (Wales) Act 2015, where the Act introduced legislative provision for the Welsh language in the planning system. Sections 11 and 31 of the Act ensures that the Welsh language is given consistent and appropriate consideration in both the preparation of development plans, and the making of planning decisions.

### **Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

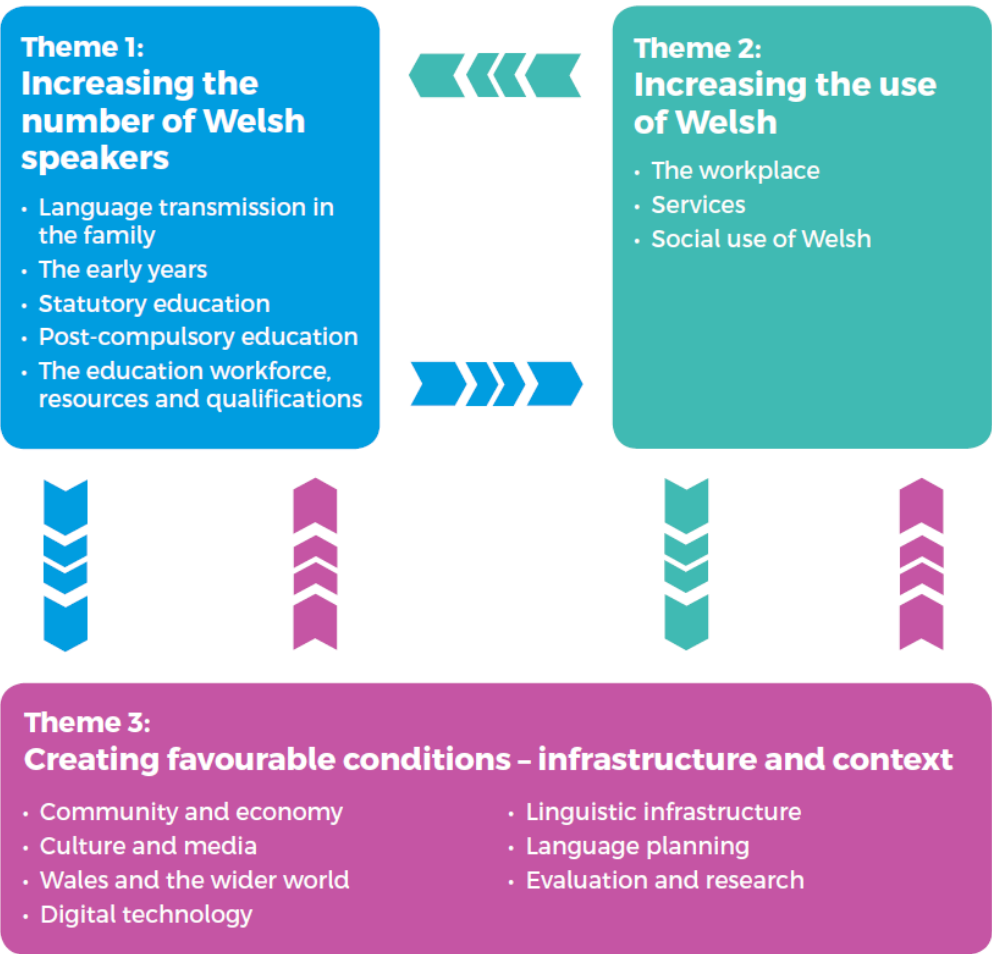
- 2.6 The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 has seven well-being goals, which certain public bodies (including local authorities and National Park authorities) must seek to achieve in order to improve wellbeing both now and in the future. One of the well-being goals is ‘A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language’. As noted by Welsh Government, *“This well-being goal will be achieved through a society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts and sports and recreation. The Wellbeing Act seeks to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.”*

## **Planning Policy Wales Edition 11 and TAN 20 – Planning and the Welsh Language**

- 2.7 Welsh Government policies relating to this matter are included in Planning Policy Wales and technical advice is provided in Technical Advice Note 20 “Planning and the Welsh Language” - October 2017. The purpose of this TAN is to provide guidance on how the Welsh language may be given appropriate consideration in the planning system and on compliance with the requirements of planning and other relevant legislation. The language is therefore, unquestionably, a material consideration in planning.
- 2.8 In terms of signs and advertisements, TAN 20 notes that they can *“have a strong visible impact on the character of an area, including its linguistic character. They are also one method of promoting the distinctive culture of Wales, which is of significance to the identity of individual communities as well as the tourism industry. Policies in LDPs relating to signage and advertising subject to planning control may promote the provision of bilingual signs.”* Outside planning controls, encouragement can also be given to using traditional Welsh names for new developments and streets and certainly this will be the case in the National Park.
- 2.9 It is the Authority’s view that signs within the National Park should be at least bilingual in order to protect one of the key special qualities of the Park, and therefore on an application/case basis, will request that any proposals for signs and/or advertisements are at least bilingual.
- 2.10 Welsh Government’s “Building Better Places – Placemaking and the Covid 19 recovery” (July 2020) is a document which sets out the Government’s planning policy priorities to assist in taking action in the recovery period after the Covid-19 pandemic. It notes that *“the document references the National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes, one of which is ‘Creating and Sustaining Communities’. A key aspect of this outcome is ensuring and enabling the Welsh language to thrive. The National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes are set out in PPW and are highly relevant at this time”*.

## **Welsh Language Strategy – Cymraeg 2050**

- 2.11 In 2017, Welsh Government announced its plans to double the number of Welsh speakers to one million by 2050. One issue mentioned was the threats to traditional Welsh speaking communities due to young people moving away to find work and incomers who do not speak the language. Proposals were outlined under six key areas for discussion;
- Planning – making the Welsh language a part of every aspect of life
  - Everyday life – encouraging people to use Welsh and to respect those who speak it
  - Education – introducing people to Welsh in schools, colleges and adult learning
  - People – making sure that the language is passed on to children and that it is used in the workplace
  - Support – through dictionaries, digital tools and Welsh language media
  - Rights – ensure that laws promoting the official status and use of Welsh remain effective.
- 2.12 This vision is highlighted in the image below, taken from the ‘Cymraeg 2050’ document





### 3 LOCAL LINGUISTIC PATTERNS

- 3.1 The Welsh language is spoken by 58.6% of the resident population within Snowdonia National Park compared with just 19.0% of the population of Wales, according to the 2011 census. This masks considerable variation however, with lower proportions (26-40%) of Welsh speakers in some communities such as Conwy, Arthog, Aberdyfi and Penmaenmawr and higher proportions of Welsh speakers in areas such as Llanuwchllyn (80.4%), Y Bala (75.1%) and Ysbyty Ifan (77.0%). The table below presents the results of the 2011 Census for the Welsh language for Snowdonia National Park. The relative percentages for the national level are also displayed.

Census 2011	Actual Number	% SNPA	% Wales
<b>Total Population – (Age 3 and over)</b>	24,959		
No skills in Welsh	8,104	32.5%	73.3%
Can understand spoken Welsh only	1,861	7.5%	5.3%
Can speak Welsh	14,626	58.6%	19.0%
Can speak but cannot read or write Welsh	1,334	5.3%	2.7%
Can speak and read but cannot write Welsh	834	3.3%	1.5%
Can speak, read and write Welsh	12,413	49.7%	14.6%
Other combination of skills in Welsh	413	1.7%	2.5%

- 3.2 The table below shows the comparison between 2011 and 2001 percentages within Snowdonia National Park. From the results of the census it is observed that 67.5% of the Park's population has at least one Welsh language skill.

Census 2011	% SNPA 2011	% SNPA 2001
No skills in Welsh	32.5%	30.2%
Can understand spoken Welsh only	7.5%	6.1%
Can speak Welsh	58.6%	62.1%
Can speak but cannot read or write Welsh	5.3%	5.3%
Can speak and read but cannot write Welsh	3.3%	2.3%
Can speak, read and write Welsh	49.7%	54.5%
Other combination of skills in Welsh	1.7%	1.6%

- 3.3 The change in percentages within the National Park is consistent with the trend seen at the national level. There was a 3.5% decrease in the percentage of people who could speak the language between 2001 and 2011, and this percentage is above the national percentage change of 2%.
- 3.4 This trend of decline in the number of Welsh speakers in the National Park has been apparent between 1951 and 2011. For example, between 1971 and 1991 the proportion fell from 77 per cent to 65 per cent. Although this decline is still continuing, the rate of decline has slowed for example in 2001 62 per cent of the National Park population was able to speak Welsh, with 58.6% being able to speak Welsh in 2011. Demographic changes include a higher than average proportion of people aged 65 and over (26.0% compared with 18% for Wales – *the % for over 65's in the Park in 2001 was 21%*) and a growth in the proportion of 60 – 74 year olds. Younger people

moving out of the area and older people moving in has contributed significantly to the substantial increases in house prices in the area. A number of possible factors influencing these changes include the changing pattern of second homes / retirement homes and external growth in economic opportunities for Welsh speakers. The table below shows a breakdown of Welsh speakers within the National Park by age groups

	<b>Actual Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Total Population – (Age 3 and over)</b>	<b>24,959</b>	
Age 3 to 15	3,103	12.4%
Age 16 to 64	15,362	61.5%
Age 65 and over	6,494	26.0%
<b>Can speak Welsh – age 3 and over</b>	<b>14,626</b>	
Can speak Welsh: Age 3 to 15	2,776	11.1%
Can speak Welsh: Age 16 to 64	8,751	35.1%
Can speak Welsh: Age 65 and over	3,099	12.4%
<b>One or more skills in Welsh age 3 and over</b>	<b>16,855</b>	
One or more skills in Welsh: Age 3 to 15	2,934	11.8%
One or more skills in Welsh: Age 16 to 64	10,320	41.3%
One or more skills in Welsh: Age 65 and over	3,601	14.4%

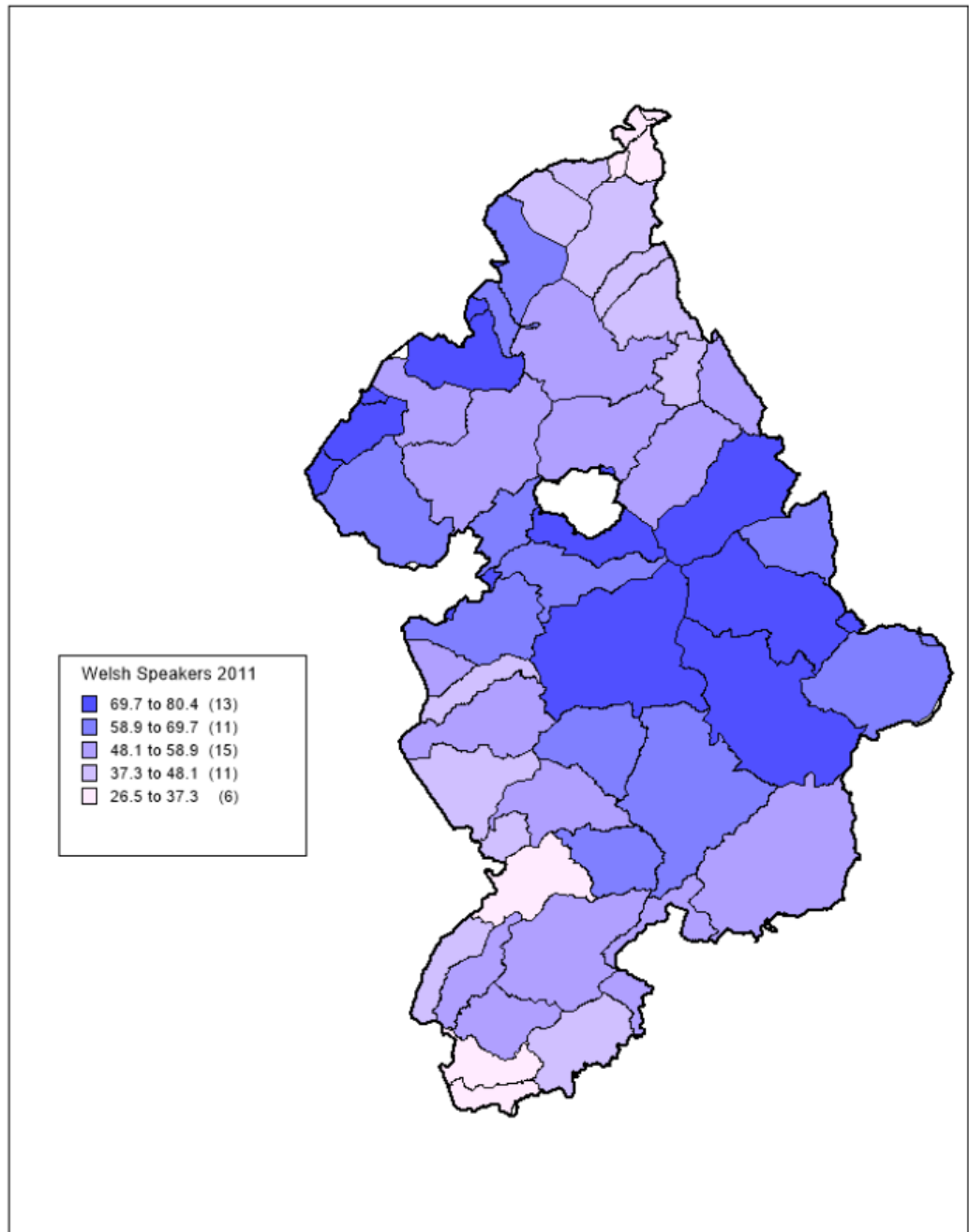
3.5 Welsh is at the heart of the National Park’s cultural and community identity as a living and sustainable language in these communities. Map 1 shows the distribution of Welsh speakers in the communities of the National Park on the basis of the 2011 census. The Welsh language and education policies of Gwynedd and Conwy Councils support the growth and development of the Welsh language throughout the National Park.

3.6 The table below shows the percentage of people that can speak Welsh within the community councils of the National Park (these are communities either fully or partially within the Park – *bold highlights fully within the Park boundary*).

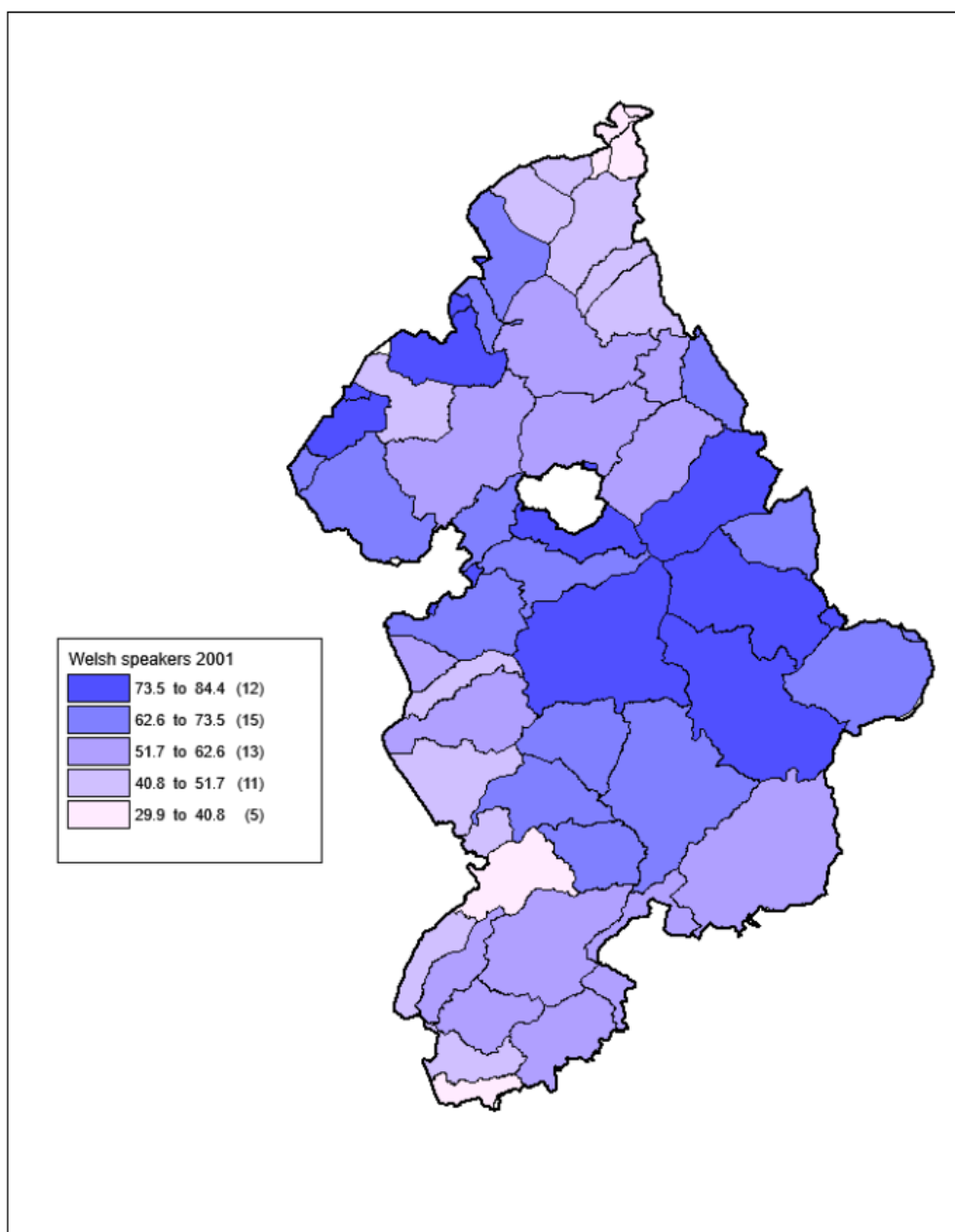
<b>Community Council</b>	<b>% Welsh Speaker 2001</b>	<b>% Can Speak Welsh 2011</b>	<b>Percentage increase/decrease</b>
Aber	44.9%	47.1%	+ 2.2%
<b>Aberdyfi</b>	36.2%	30.0%	- 6.2%
Arthog	32.0%	27.6%	- 4.4%
<b>Bala</b>	79.7%	75.1%	- 4.6%
Barmouth	43.5%	39.8%	- 3.7%
<b>Beddgelert</b>	60.7%	50.8%	- 9.9%

Bethesda	76.7%	73.9%	- 2.8%
Betws Garmon	43.4%	52.6%	+ 9.2%
<b>Betws y Coed</b>	57.4%	44.7%	- 12.7%
<b>Brithdir a Llanfachreth</b>	67.0%	66.0%	- 1.0%
Bro Garmon	66.3%	57.1%	- 9.2%
<b>Bro Machno</b>	61.1%	55.1%	- 6.0%
<b>Bryn-crug</b>	56.2%	50.8%	- 5.4%
Caerhun	47.6%	43.6%	- 4.0%
<b>Capel Curig</b>	52.8%	54.9%	+ 2.1%
Clynnog	67.5%	70.0%	+ 2.5%
Conwy	29.8%	26.5%	- 3.3%
Corris	60.0%	50.8%	- 9.2%
Dolbenmaen	69.2%	65.7%	- 3.5%
Dolgarrog	49.9%	44.8%	- 5.1%
<b>Dolgellau</b>	70.3%	63.0%	- 7.3%
<b>Dolwyddelan</b>	55.4%	50.2%	- 5.2%
<b>Dyffryn Ardudwy</b>	48.4%	45.7%	- 2.7%
Ffestiniog	80.6%	75.7%	- 4.9%
<b>Ganllwyd</b>	68.0%	59.8%	- 8.2%
<b>Harlech</b>	56.5%	50.2%	- 6.3%
Henryd	39.0%	36.5%	- 2.5%
<b>Llanbedr</b>	53.4%	52.4%	- 1.0%
Llanberis	80.0%	72.3%	- 7.7%
Llanddeiniolen	78.1%	73.2%	- 4.9%
Llandderfel	69.4%	64.7%	- 4.7%
Llandwrog	76.7%	75.6%	- 1.1%
Llandygai	68.3%	65.2%	- 3.1%
<b>Llanegryn</b>	58.1%	48.8%	- 9.3%
<b>Llanelltyd</b>	63.8%	55.8%	- 8.0%
<b>Llanfair</b>	46.6%	44.4%	- 2.2%
Llanfairfechan	50.2%	45.3%	- 4.9%
<b>Llanfihangel-y-Pennant</b>	61.3%	51.3%	- 10.0%
Llanfrothen	69.1%	67.7%	- 1.4%
<b>Llangelynin</b>	45.6%	40.6%	- 5.0%
Llangywer	71.0%	65.4%	- 5.6%
Llanllechid	64.7%	65.4%	+ 0.7%
Llanllyfni	80.0%	76.3%	- 3.7%
Llanrwst	64.3%	58.5%	- 5.8%
<b>Llanuwchllyn</b>	84.4%	80.4%	- 4.0%
<b>Llanycil</b>	79.6%	78.1%	- 1.5%
<b>Maentwrog</b>	69.9%	65.0%	- 4.9%
Mawddwy	60.7%	57.7%	- 3.0%
Penmaenmawr	37.5%	32.7%	- 4.8%
<b>Pennal</b>	54.0%	45.8%	- 8.2%
Penrhyndeudeath	78.3%	72.9%	- 5.4%
<b>Talsarnau</b>	64.9%	60.4%	- 4.5%
<b>Trawsfynydd</b>	80.2%	74.5%	- 5.7%
Trefriw	50.1%	43.7%	- 6.4%
Tywyn	40.5%	36.4%	- 4.1%
<b>Ysbyty Ifan</b>	84.7%	77.0%	- 7.7%

- i. Map 1: distribution of Welsh speakers as a proportion of the population aged 3 and over: 2011 Census

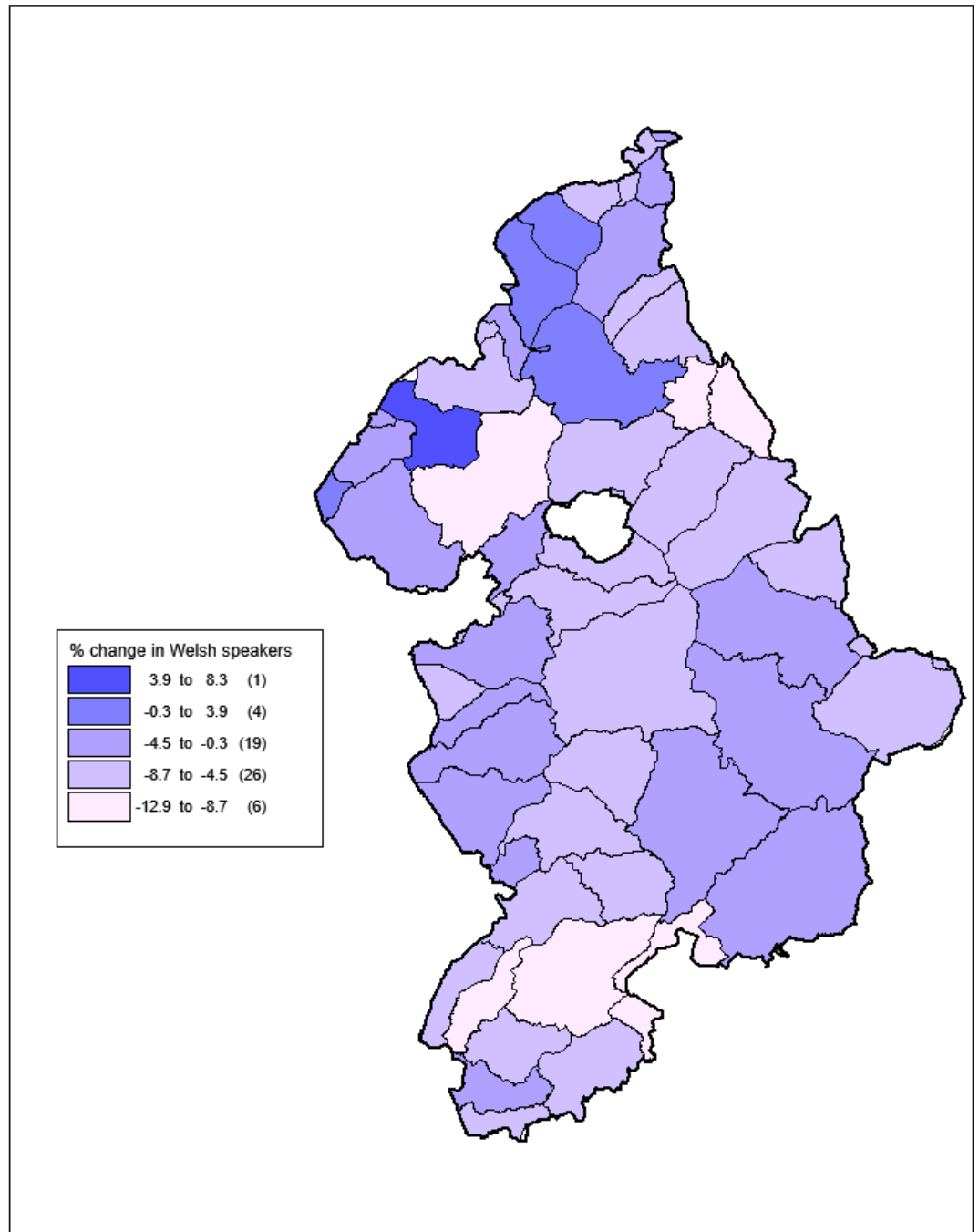


- ii. Map 2: distribution of Welsh speakers as a proportion of the population aged 3 and over: 2001 Census



\* although the shadings in map 1 and map 2 may look similar, the legend notes that the colours represents different percentages between each maps. Therefore, please take the legend into consideration whilst looking at the maps. Map 3 on the following page shows the percentage change in Welsh speakers between the 2001 census and 2011 census.

iii. Map 3: percentage of change of Welsh speakers between 2001 and 2011



## 4 NATIONAL PARK PLANNING POLICIES

- 4.1 Development Policy 18 of the Eryri Local Development Plan, set out below provides the detailed policy basis for taking the Welsh language into account as a material consideration in determining planning applications:

### **Development Policy 18: The Welsh language and the Social and Cultural fabric of communities (18)**

In determining all planning applications within the National Park the needs and interests of the Welsh Language will be taken into account. This will be achieved through:

- i. Supporting development which maintains or enhances the integrity of the Welsh language.
  - ii. Refusing development which, due to its size, scale or its location, would cause significant harm to the character and language balance of a community. To be able to make an informed decision on applications that may have an effect on the future of the Welsh language within communities, applicants will be required to submit a:
    - a) “Community and Linguistic Statement” to accompany a planning application for unanticipated windfall sites of 5 or more residential units ; a commercial, industrial or tourist development with an area of 1000m<sup>2</sup> or more; a development which is likely to lead to the loss of community facilities or employment opportunities and a tourism development creating ten or more holiday units.
    - b) More detailed assessment in the form of a “Community and Linguistic Impact Assessment” to accompany a planning application where developments are on a larger scale. Larger developments in this case are regarded as proposals which are substantially above the thresholds outlined in criterion a, and are likely to be located on unallocated sites, have some significance beyond the National Park boundary and be unrelated to specific policies in the Plan.
  - iii. Mitigating against any adverse effect through requiring in appropriate circumstances a financial contribution through a Section 106 agreement.
  - iv. Encouraging all signage by public bodies and by commercial and business companies to be bilingual or in Welsh only to protect and promote the distinctive cultural amenity of the National Park.
  - v. Encouraging the use of Welsh place names for new developments, house and street names.
- 4.2 This policy emphasises the need to protect local communities and the Welsh language, by the town and country planning process and provides a basis for refusing planning applications where this does not occur.
- 4.3 Snowdonia National Park Authority requests that any proposals for signs and/or advertisements are at least bilingual.

## 5 ASSESSING THE EFFECTS OF DEVELOPMENT

- 5.1 As there is a high percentage of Welsh speakers in every community, the language is part of the fabric of society and is linked to the culture and traditions of the area. It is therefore necessary to give careful consideration to the way in which new developments may affect the current pattern and to ask whether they are in keeping with local and national language policies.
- 5.2 In the case of smaller developments listed in criterion ii a) of Development Policy 18,, applicants are asked to submit a **“Community and Linguistic Statement”** (see Appendix A for guidance on the preparation of such a statement) to accompany their planning application. Where developments are on a larger scale and where they do not comply with national and local policies, the planning authority will ask for a more detailed assessment which will be submitted in the form of a **“Community and Linguistic Impact Assessment”** (see Appendix B for guidance on the preparation of such a statement).
- 5.3 When a development proposal requires the submission and presentation of either a ‘Community and Linguistic Statement’ or a ‘Community and Linguistic Impact Assessment’ as part of a planning application, the applicant will need to demonstrate the following;
- Evidence or justification of why the individual (applicant or agent) presenting the statement/assessment is suitable or qualified to do so – (*The Authority has the right to refuse a statement if it is not satisfied that the individual presenting it has sufficient experience in the field*)
  - Mitigation and enhancement measures (i.e. how the application will seek to create cultural and linguistic gains – not only mitigation)
  - Impact the development may have on the wider community
- 5.4 Additional detail is given under Appendix A and Appendix B.



## 6 COMMUNITY AND LINGUISTIC STATEMENT

- 6.1 As a starting point, the Planning Authority will ask for a Community and Language Statement as part of a planning application for developments which fall within one or more of the following categories:-
- Unanticipated windfall sites of 5 or more residential units
  - a commercial, industrial or tourist development with an area of 1000m<sup>2</sup> or more
  - a development which is likely to lead to the loss of community facilities or job opportunities
  - a tourism development creating ten or more holiday units.
- 6.2 The Statement will form part of the background material for assessing a planning application and will be one of several other material factors which will be considered; it is only infrequently that an application will be determined on the basis of the Statement alone. In most instances, the Statement will give the opportunity to demonstrate positive influences on communities, particularly where the development serves to meet local needs, well-being goals and the aspirations contained in the Welsh Language Strategy – Cymraeg 2050. In response to any negative impacts of the development, the applicant will be given the opportunity to expand on the benefits of the development and to present evidence of mitigating factors relevant to the application and planning. This could be achieved, if relevant, by negotiating a formal Planning Obligation between the applicant and the Local Planning Authority. Developers should also demonstrate how they will make a positive contribution and maximise use of the language in all areas, particularly in areas where the Welsh language is thriving
- 6.3 The verification and appraisal of the Statement will be a matter for the Planning Authority in making a decision about the application, taking into account any other relevant material planning considerations. The Planning Authority may disagree with the conclusions of the Statement. In such instances, an attempt will be made to verify the facts and to reach an understanding with the applicant about the main considerations. In order to provide support for potential applicants the Planning Authority will publish relevant statistics for each community and monitor the effect of any new developments as part of the background work on the Development Plan [see Appendix C] and through annual Plan monitoring..
- 6.4 If, in the opinion of the authority, it can be shown unequivocally that the development is likely to have a negative effect on the community and that it will be detrimental to the Welsh language, the authority may refuse the application on these grounds alone. Additionally, it may be necessary, because of a vague or questionable conclusion to a Statement, for the authority to ask the applicant to prepare a full Assessment to enable it to consider the case in a more detailed and precise manner.

## **7 COMMUNITY AND LINGUISTIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 From time to time, developments which are substantial in their scale and likely impacts may be submitted unexpectedly to the Planning Authority. In this context it is difficult to anticipate the specific size or actual type of development. Larger developments in this case are regarded as proposals which are substantially above the thresholds of a smaller developments listed in criterion ii a) of Development Policy 18 and are likely to be located on unallocated sites, have some significance beyond the National Park boundary and be unrelated to specific policies on the Plan. It is reasonable to suggest, that developments which are on a larger scale and more significant in their impact are likely to fall into one or more of the following categories, namely ones which:-
- are over and above the needs and aspirations of local communities
  - are on unallocated land and sites and contrary to the policies of the Development Plan
  - are not part of a local project or strategy
  - replicate past tendencies where a damaging effect has occurred on communities and language
  - are on a large scale in comparison with the level of demand in the local market
  - are not likely to contribute to communities in a sustainable manner
  - have some significance beyond the Park boundary
- 7.2 The assessment of any planning application will be a matter for the Planning Authority and it will decide whether an application falls within the above mentioned definitions. If that is the case, developers will be required to prepare a Community and Linguistic Impact Assessment which is much more rigorous than a Community and Language Statement, following the guidance provided in Appendix B.
- 7.3 The Assessment, in addition to other relevant information about the planning application, such as compliance with development plan policies, traffic or environmental considerations, will assist the Planning Authority in either refusing or granting planning permission. Rarely will decisions be likely to depend solely on the evidence in the Assessment.

## 8 EVALUATING THE ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 The applicant will be given an opportunity to present evidence in support of his/ her application and to demonstrate how the proposal would bring benefits to the local community. In addition, mitigating measures, relevant to the application and to planning, could be presented, in response to any negative effects of the development. Additionally the applicant should provide evidence or justification of why they (applicant or agent) are suitable/qualified to present the assessment.
- 8.2 The process of preparing an Assessment is subjective and it is possible that the Planning Authority's interpretation of the impacts on a community could be different from that of the applicant. In such cases efforts will be made to verify the facts and to reach an agreement with the applicant about the main considerations. In addition, it is likely that organisations and individuals from the community will express opinions that may be material planning considerations.
- 8.3 If, in the opinion of the Planning Authority, it can be clearly demonstrated that the development is likely to have a negative effect on the community and on the Welsh language, it will be possible for the Planning Authority, in accordance with national and local planning policies, to refuse the application solely on these grounds. As part of the application, an action plan demonstrating how the applicant plans to mitigate any negative impact and/or demonstrate opportunities to improve and upgrade the local situation in terms of the language and provision, should be presented.

## **9 MONITORING**

- 9.1 It is intended to monitor the actual effect of developments against the evidence that is submitted in Statements and Assessments in order to consider the effectiveness of the process outlined in this guidance. As a starting point the Authority has outlined, in Appendices, the main statistics and information sources which are available. From time to time, as new information becomes available, it is intended to check and update this list in the context of monitoring the guidance and the Development Plan. The Authority will release this information to prospective applicants.

## **APPENDIX A: COMMUNITY AND LINGUISTIC STATEMENT**

It is necessary for the applicant to complete a Community and Linguistic Statement for the type of developments listed in criterion ii a) of Development Policy 18. The statement should be completed by replying in as much detail as possible to the questions listed below which are relevant to the type of development under consideration. The Planning Authority will check the information and will possibly ask for an explanation or for further details in order to ensure that the Statement is accurate and complete before considering it in determining an application for planning permission.

### **General (all types of development)**

Is the development:-

- consistent with local and national strategies/plans
- likely to satisfy local and community needs
- likely to maintain or add to communal facilities
- sustainable in the long term
- likely to be supported by the local community

### **Population Characteristics (all types of development)**

Will the development:-

- attract newcomers to the area
- contribute to migration from the area

### **Residential**

Does the development:-

- reflect local housing need including affordable homes
- resemble other developments completed during the last five years? If so, what are the cumulative impacts?

### **Employment**

Will the development:-

- call for labour skills which are available locally
- create jobs for the local workforce
- attract workers from outside the National Park area
- create new opportunities for the workforce
- lead to further investment

### **Mitigation and enhancement Measures**

Would it be possible to alleviate the negative effects? Is there an opportunity for improvements or upgrading that would positively impact the language? *Where relevant*, these could include;

- provision of bilingual signs within and outside the development
- support and funding for language lessons for staff
- bilingual marketing and advertising
- supporting local labour and employment
- support and funding for cultural and language initiatives or local projects/centres
- phased development (e.g. if a large housing development)

## Appendix B: Community and Linguistic Impact Assessment

### Background

It will be necessary to submit a Community and Linguistic Impact Assessment (CLIA) for developments falling within criterion ii b) of Development Policy 18. The methodology comprises a checklist to allow the developer and local planning authority to make an assessment of the likely impact of a development proposal against five aspects of community life:

- Population (levels and the characteristics of that population)
- Quality of life (therefore providing the impetus for people to remain, leave or move to the community)
- The economy (affecting employment opportunities for different groups as well as the cost of living and, more specifically, the cost of housing)
- Infrastructure (needed to sustain the community, particularly schools, health care and essential services)
- The social and cultural life of the community (expressed through the viability of cultural institutions, particularly those affecting younger people).

Population stability or moderate growth, combined with a high quality of life, a strong economy, high quality infrastructure and a vibrant social and cultural life are all central to community cohesion and sustainability. Where the Welsh language forms a part of the social fabric of a community, its fate and well-being is inexorably tied to the wider fortunes of that community. If a development is likely to be detrimental to any one of these aspects, it may also have an adverse impact on the Welsh language. However, if it is sensitive to the local context e.g. supporting the local economy, then the impact is far more likely to be positive.

The checklist provides guidance on assessing the likely impact of a development against the five aspects of community, with a view to establishing both its effects on the community in general and its impact on the Welsh language more specifically. It is a guide for those responsible for establishing likely impacts, designing policy and advising on development decisions.

Developers and Local planning authorities will need to search relevant statistics available locally and nationally to make a clear assessment of the data sources for the five community aspects. The planning authority will prepare relevant facts and indicators to assist the developer.

## **Methodology and Assessment**

The CLIA methodology has been devised taking into account the form of impact assessment methodologies already applied to different aspects of planning and development. These methodologies normally comprise either a tick/cross scoring in answer to each question, or a numeric scoring.

### **Scoring the Checklist**

The CLIA methodology is a subjective process intended to establish the probable impacts stemming from a development proposal or policy. When officers use the checklist, each question should be answered with a positive, negative or neutral score reflecting the perceived impact of the development against the five sets of issues. Numerals need to be inserted as the answer to each checklist question, with numeral +1 representing a perceived positive impact, numeral -1 a perceived negative impact, and numeral 0 for a perceived neutral impact.

Gradually, scores of +1, -1 and 0 will be inserted as the answers to each checklist question across the five sets of community life topics. The ability to compare options is important in undertaking an assessment, guiding the assessor to the 'best' overall choice. The impact assessment helps to inform decisions about which checklist topics perform better than others against the five community life issues by revealing the potential impacts. The ultimate choices have to be made by the assessor. An inability to answer any of the questions suggests that assessors will need to construct new data and evidence to search for an answer. In the assessment process, a lack of answer to a question (i.e. a blank return) will be deleted from the overall calculation. The final Overall Impact Index Assessment matrix (see below) will indicate which options have more harmful impacts or, conversely, beneficial contributions.

It is not suggested that the addition and comparison of these impacts will make the overall choice for the developer/local planning authority. However, a matrix that identifies those impacts that have a relatively high positive or negative impact, and is accompanied by a commentary, will help decision-makers to determine the most sustainable option. The importance or weight to be given to a checklist question will vary for different policies and development proposals, and that judgment is for those making the assessment. The developer and local planning authority will need to make a judgment on how much weight to give those checklist answers that are concerned with the shorter or longer term, for example.

### **Calculating an Overall Impact Index**

The final part of the assessment methodology is an Overall Impact Assessment Index. This comprises a measurable summary table that permits the assessor to develop a positive, negative or neutral score relating to the perceived impacts likely to occur. The score will then form a material consideration in the assessment of an application for planning permission within development control, or an indicator in the assessment of whether or not to adopt a policy or proposal.

Each of the questions within each of the five sets of community life components - population characteristics, quality of life, economic factors, infrastructure supply, social and cultural aspects - produces a range of scores known as the *base index*. These 18 scores may then be used to calculate an Overall Base Index Score, which is simply the average score across all the answers. An Overall Base Score of between 0.1 and 1.0 denotes a positive impact; a score of 0 denotes a

neutral impact; a score between -1.0 and -0.1 denotes a negative impact, with actual figures representing the relative perceived severity.

The summary table automatically calculates a *dimensional index*, which is a mean score for each of the community life components - a mean for population; a mean for quality of life; a mean for economic factors; a mean for infrastructure; and a mean for social issues. This enables assessors to compare the mean score for each of the five components, recognizing the perceived greater impacts, and possible trade-offs, between one component and another.

Depending on the policy priorities of the local planning authority, the objectives of the development plan, and the socio-economic profile of the community where the development is proposed, the assessor may give greater weight to one or more of the five components at this stage of the assessment when the Overall Impact Index is utilised as a decision tool. The choice of which component to attach greater weight to is a matter for the local planning authority, justified on local circumstances and policy priorities. Alternatively, the assessor may regard each of the five components as being of equal significance and therefore of equal weight.

The Overall Base Index Score may then be used to calculate *Language Impact Scores*. These scores are divided into three variations - to represent the degree of importance of the language in that particular location: if the language is considered to have 'high' importance; if the language is considered to have 'medium' importance; and if the language is considered to have 'low' importance. These figures are calculated automatically.

The use of 'high', 'medium' and 'low' significance for language importance is a matter for the local planning authority, and will be decided on the basis of the proposed location of the development and the results of the Linguistic Profiling exercise.



**Preparing a Community and Linguistic Impact Assessment**

Please complete the following questionnaire, providing as much detail as possible. After the main question, there is an opportunity to add further comments on key issues. Part (a) after each question is an opportunity to make an overall assessment; Part (b) is a statement of evidence, normally based on prior experience; Part (c) is your evidence based assessment of general community impact, and part (d) deals with possible mitigation measures. The numerical assessment provided in Part (c) of each question will need to be fed into the overall impact tool at the end of the questionnaire.

**POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS**

**1. How will the development likely lead to a population increase / decrease that might:**

Affect the balance of English / Welsh speaker (in a negative / positive way); or

Lead to an absolute or proportional decline in the number of Welsh speakers

a) Please DESCRIBE your overall assessment

b) Please STATE previous evidence (local / national case studies drawing on the UK Census for 1991 and 2001)

c) Please STATE whether you consider that the development will have a POSITIVE (1), NEUTRAL (0), or NEGATIVE (-1) impact on the COMMUNITY as a whole

d) How might any NEGATIVE impact be mitigated, or any POSITIVE impact enhanced?


**2. Is the development likely to lead to increased in-migration?**

Might this result in a permanent increase in the proportion of non-Welsh speaking households?

Will the change be permanent or temporary?

a) Please DESCRIBE your overall assessment

b) Please STATE previous evidence (local / national case studies drawing on the UK Census for 1991 and 2001)

c) Please STATE whether you consider that the development will have a POSITIVE (1), NEUTRAL (O) or NEGATIVE (-1) impact on the COMMUNITY as a whole

d) How might any NEGATIVE impact be mitigated, or any POSITIVE impact enhanced?



**3. Is the development likely to lead to increased out-migration ?**

Is the process of out-migration likely to result in a loss of Welsh speaking households?

Will the change be permanent or temporary?

a) Please DESCRIBE your overall assessment

b) Please STATE previous evidence (local / national case studies drawing on the UK Census for 1991 and 2001)

c) Please STATE whether you consider that the development will have a POSITIVE (1), NEUTRAL (O) or NEGATIVE (-1) impact on the COMMUNITY as a whole

d) How might any NEGATIVE impact be mitigated, or any POSITIVE impact enhanced?



**4. How will the development likely change the age structure of the community? Might it:**

Lead to young / middle-aged / older Welsh speaking people leaving / moving into the area, leading to:

Changes in traditional activity patterns, resulting in an increasing desire to move away?

Social tensions / break-up of traditional social networks

a) Please DESCRIBE your overall assessment

b) Please STATE previous evidence (local / national case studies drawing on the UK Census for 1991 and 2001)

c) Please STATE whether you consider that the development will have a POSITIVE (1), NEUTRAL (0) or NEGATIVE (-1) impact on the COMMUNITY as a whole

d) How might any NEGATIVE impact be mitigated, or any POSITIVE impact enhanced?


## QUALITY OF LIFE

### 5. How will the development likely have an impact on the health of local people? Might it:

Increase the risk of illness, therefore reducing the desirability to live in the community?

Potentially make life more expensive, therefore increasing the risk of financial problems / stress of the local Welsh speaking population

a) Please DESCRIBE your overall assessment

b) Please STATE previous evidence (local studies or Index Deprivation)

c) Please STATE whether you consider that the development will have a POSITIVE (1), NEUTRAL (0) or NEGATIVE (-1) impact on the COMMUNITY as a whole

d) How might any NEGATIVE impact be mitigated, or any POSITIVE impact enhanced?

### 6. How will the development likely have an impact on the amenity of the local area? Might it:

Lead to a deterioration in environmental quality, therefore reducing the desirability to live in the community?

a) Please DESCRIBE your overall assessment

b) Please STATE previous evidence local environmental assessments or residents' surveys)

c) Please STATE whether you consider that the development will have a POSITIVE (1), NEUTRAL (0) or NEGATIVE (-1) impact on the COMMUNITY as a whole

d) How might any NEGATIVE impact be mitigated, or any POSITIVE impact enhanced?

**7. Is the development likely to lead to the threat of increased crime or violence in the community? Might it:**

Increase the risk of crime or violence, therefore reducing the desirability to live in the community?

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a) Please DESCRIBE your overall assessment

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b) Please STATE previous evidence (local crime figures / police records from areas subject to similar developments)

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c) Please STATE whether you consider that the development will have a POSITIVE (1), NEUTRAL (O) or NEGATIVE (-1) impact on the COMMUNITY as a whole

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--

d) How might any NEGATIVE impact be mitigated, or any POSITIVE impact enhanced?

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## ECONOMIC FACTORS

**8. Is the development likely to have a detrimental impact on local businesses? Might it:**

Potentially lead to local – Welsh speaking – businesses closing down, due to:

\_\_\_\_\_

A decline in overall local population?

\_\_\_\_\_

An increase of – non Welsh speaking – residents ?

\_\_\_\_\_

An increase in harmful / helpful competition?

\_\_\_\_\_

a) Please DESCRIBE your overall assessment

\_\_\_\_\_

b) Please STATE previous evidence (local business surveys or economic assessments)

\_\_\_\_\_

c) Please STATE whether you consider that the development will have a POSITIVE (1), NEUTRAL (0) or NEGATIVE (-1) impact on the COMMUNITY as a whole

\_\_\_\_\_

d) How might any NEGATIVE impact be mitigated, or any POSITIVE impact enhanced?


**9. How will the development likely impact local employment?**

**Might it:**

Create jobs for the local – Welsh speaking – population (perhaps by virtue of local Welsh speaking people having the rights skills)?

Threaten jobs of the local – Welsh speaking – population (perhaps by causing the closure of local businesses)

a) Please DESCRIBE your overall assessment

b) Please STATE previous evidence (local studies)

c) Please STATE whether you consider that the development will have a POSITIVE (1), NEUTRAL (O) or NEGATIVE (-1) impact on the COMMUNITY as a whole

d) How might any NEGATIVE impact be mitigated, or any POSITIVE impact enhanced?



**10. Is the development likely to lead to greater economic diversity? Might it:**

Potentially lead to a greater number of different jobs for the local – Welsh speaking – population due to economic diversification?

Lead to increased in-migration of non-Welsh speakers?

a) Please DESCRIBE your overall assessment

b) Please STATE previous evidence (local studies or UK Census)

c) Please STATE whether you consider that the development will have a POSITIVE (1), NEUTRAL (O) or NEGATIVE (-1) impact on the COMMUNITY as a whole

d) How might any NEGATIVE impact be mitigated, or any POSITIVE impact enhanced?



**11. How will the development likely impact local wage / salary levels?**

**Might it:**

Potentially increase / decrease wage / salary levels due to increase work force / business competition ?

--

a) Please DESCRIBE your overall assessment

--

b) Please STATE previous evidence (local studies or Index of Income Deprivation)

--

c) Please STATE whether you consider that the development will have a POSITIVE (1), NEUTRAL (O) or NEGATIVE (-1) impact on the COMMUNITY as a whole

--

d) How might any NEGATIVE impact be mitigated, or any POSITIVE impact enhanced?

--

**12. How will the development likely impact the average cost of housing?**

**Might it:**

Force local – Welsh speaking – people to leave the community?

--

Potentially lead to an increase in homelessness / housing stress amongst local – Welsh speaking – households?

--

Prevent local Welsh speaking people from returning to the area / community?

--

a) Please DESCRIBE your overall assessment

--

b) Please STATE previous evidence (local studies of estate agents or information gathered through Housing Need Assessments)

--

c) Please STATE whether you consider that the development will have a POSITIVE (1), NEUTRAL (O) or NEGATIVE (-1) impact on the COMMUNITY as a whole

--

d) How might any NEGATIVE impact be mitigated, or any POSITIVE impact enhanced?

--



## INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPLY

### 13. How will the development likely impact local schools?

#### Might it:

Threaten / secure local schools due to an increase / decrease of student rolls?


Alter the balance between Welsh-speaking and non-Welsh speaking students?

a) Please DESCRIBE your overall assessment

--

b) Please STATE previous evidence (local studies and data from LEAs)

--

c) Please STATE whether you consider that the development will have a POSITIVE (1), NEUTRAL (O) or NEGATIVE (-1) impact on the COMMUNITY as a whole

--

d) How might any NEGATIVE impact be mitigated, or any POSITIVE impact enhanced?

--

### 14. How will the development likely impact health care provision?

#### Might it:

Threaten / secure local – Welsh medium – facilities / services?

--

a) Please DESCRIBE your overall assessment

--

b) Please STATE previous evidence (local studies and information for Local Health Trusts)

--

c) Please STATE whether you consider that the development will have a POSITIVE (1), NEUTRAL (O) or NEGATIVE (-1) impact on the COMMUNITY as a whole

--

d) How might any NEGATIVE impact be mitigated, or any POSITIVE impact enhanced?

--

**15. How will the development likely impact the provision of local services, such as shops / post offices / banks / pubs? Might it:**

Threaten/secure local shops / post offices / banks / pubs in Welsh speaking communities, therefore forcing certain sections of the population out of the area / community e.g. the elderly or disabled, or the young?

--

a) Please DESCRIBE your overall assessment

--

b) Please STATE previous evidence (local studies commercial information available from business directories / VAT office, or business rating register)

--

c) Please STATE whether you consider that the development will have a POSITIVE (1), NEUTRAL (0) or NEGATIVE (-1) impact on the COMMUNITY as a whole

--

d) How might any NEGATIVE impact be mitigated, or any POSITIVE impact enhanced?

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**SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ASPECTS**

**16. Will the development potentially lead to social tensions, conflict or serious divisions within the – Welsh speaking – community?**

**Might it:**

Have a significant uneven effect on different parts of the local community, potentially advantaging some groups and disadvantaging others?

--

Violate traditional values of certain parts of the community?

--

a) Please DESCRIBE your overall assessment

--

b) Please STATE previous evidence (local studies / assessments)

--

c) Please STATE whether you consider that the development will have a POSITIVE (1), NEUTRAL (0) or NEGATIVE (-1) impact on the COMMUNITY as a whole

--

d) How might any NEGATIVE impact be mitigated, or any POSITIVE impact enhanced?

--

**17. How will the development likely lead to changes in local – Welsh – traditions/culture?**

**Might it:**

Result in local – Welsh speaking – households moving away from the areas?

--

Lead to significant increase of non-local – non-Welsh speaking – households?

--

Lead to an erosion of family ties or other social networks?

--

Lead to significant changes to the economic or social context, threatening traditional lifestyles?

--

Impact on local – Welsh speaking – households by introducing / accelerating social change?

--

a) Please DESCRIBE your overall assessment

--

b) Please STATE previous evidence (local studies / assessments)

c) Please STATE whether you consider that the development will have a POSITIVE (1), NEUTRAL (O) or NEGATIVE (-1) impact on the COMMUNITY as a whole

d) How might any NEGATIVE impact be mitigated, or any POSITIVE impact enhanced?


**18. How will the development likely impact local voluntary / activity / youth groups? Might it:**

Force local people active in local groups to move out of the community, due to:

Drive an increase in unemployment / economic stress?

Drive an increase in house prices / housing stress?

a) Please DESCRIBE your overall assessment

b) Please STATE previous evidence (local studies / assessments / Indexes of Deprivation)

c) Please STATE whether you consider that the development will have a POSITIVE (1), NEUTRAL (O) or NEGATIVE (-1) impact on the COMMUNITY as a whole

d) How might any NEGATIVE impact be mitigated, or any POSITIVE impact enhanced?



## Notes

**Question 1** considers the basic issue of population growth or decline resulting from a development. Most forms of development have a propensity to stabilise population or drive growth. But a basic question is whether the development will lead to endogenous growth (e.g. create local jobs and allow people who would otherwise have left the community to remain) or whether it will increase the likelihood of in-migration. Whilst in-migration is often a positive force in rural communities, substantial levels of growth are likely to impact on social balance (in terms of age and income structure, and socio-cultural background). Judgements must be made as to whether population change will positively or adversely affect the language's place as part of the social fabric of a community. Judgements are likely to draw on previous experience, with part assessments drawing on UK Census data.

**Question 2** addresses the issue of in-migration more directly. Some developments are likely to cause social reconfigurations. For instance, a residential development for retirement purposes in a community with a young age structure is unlikely to serve a local need and will cause permanent social change. A holiday home development, however, is unlikely to cause any permanent shift in social structure, and may lead to economic benefits assessed in later questions. Again, judgements will be grounded in experience, with supporting data drawn from the Census.

**Question 3** looks at out-migration. Most developments are not associated with out-migration, but with some notable exceptions. The conversion of essential services (for example, shops or schools) to residential use may discourage people from remaining in a community. Un-neighbourly land-uses (waste facilities or incinerators) or those perceived as generally inappropriate in remoter rural areas (including large-scale asylum centres) may have a similar effect. Once again, judgements will need to be based on the precedent of previous assessments.

**Question 4** acknowledges that population movements or losses are rarely uniform across the age profile. Developments are likely to affect younger people, families, single people or older households in different ways. A development that promotes retirement may reduce housing opportunities for younger people. A development that does not create jobs or housing opportunities tailored to the needs of younger people may inadvertently remove such people from the local community. Developments that do not promote and help sustain social balance are likely to prove unsustainable in social and cultural terms.

**Question 5** seeks a link between health and community. Health deprivation may increase if housing is unsuited to needs; if roads and infrastructure is poorly planned or if industrial development contributes to a poor quality living environment. Equally, a lack of integrated green space in development proposals may diminish the attractiveness of an area. Such processes may not differentially affect Welsh / non-Welsh residents. However, if a settlement is predominantly Welsh – or Welsh is shown to be part of the social fabric – then reductions in quality of life can impact on community stability; people who can afford to move away may do so, and such places may become socially polarised. The flip-side of course, is that non-Welsh speaking migrants are less likely to gravitate to unattractive places, unless their key concern is cost rather than quality of life and aesthetic appeal.

**Question 6** tackles a related issue. Any deterioration in environmental quality will have a similar impact, reducing the attractiveness of particular towns, villages or neighbourhoods. A reduction in environmental/aesthetic quality, or in general amenity, may fuel out-migration of households with greater spending power, and cause an influx of lower income households. This is likely to impact on the balance of Welsh / English speaking residents, as well as the balance of different income and social groups. Communities must offer a certain level of quality of life if they are to remain socially stable and cohesive.

**Question 7** focuses on crime: crime – like health and amenity – will influence long term social stability and cohesion. A sustainable community is one in which crime is kept at a tolerable level. Again, increases in crime – or heightened fear of crime – may drive people away or discourage balance population growth. It also results in personal stress that may accentuate health concerns. All these quality of life issues threaten social balance: people who can afford to will move away; communities may become dominated by those lower income groups who have least choice in where they live. These social imbalances are likely to work contrary to the interests of the Welsh language, which can only thrive in balanced, sustainable communities.

**Question 8** turns to the economic dimension of community. New development may lead to the establishment or closure / downsizing of businesses within a locality, with a possible impact on provisions and the price of goods. This may lead to sections of the population being unable to access those goods or it may lead to residents being offered a greater choice. A key judgement to make is to what extent the range and choice of businesses are located within close proximity to each other and whether this benefits or dis-benefits communities.

**Question 9** recognises that new developments can affect the number, type and quality of jobs available to the local labour market, dependent on the existence of a range of skills. A shortage in some skills may lead to a shift in the community profile as workers decided to move to locations where they can utilise their skills effectively.

**Question 10** takes this a step further and acknowledges that new development may create new employment opportunities, with specific skills required: e.g. leisure / tourism development based on cultural industries may require greater utilisation of the language as a labour market skill. Assessments would have to be made in relation to the potential for economic diversification and the ability to accommodate new work forces.

**Question 11** Competition within employment sectors may lead to labour market decisions on where they take up employment and the perceived quality of employment opportunities. In a competitive global economy, communities reliant on key employment may be vulnerable to adverse salary changes and business competition.

**Question 12** *Fluctuations in the demand for housing is likely to lead to either an increase or decrease in house prices and this is likely to affect different sections of the community disproportionately. House prices, when associated with other forms of housing pressure may affect the ability of some to access housing. This may also cause either in-migration or out-migration and cause a specific impact on the extent of language usage within a community. Housing development and fluctuating house prices may also lead to an increase in commuting. This may be a symptom of more general changes in the housing market.*

**Question 13** *relates to the sustainability of local educational facilities. Prior to answering question 13, consultation and discussions are advised with the Local Education Authority, in order to understand the local context and capacity. This will also raise awareness of any proposed changes and reorganisation in the local school provision. A development may lead to essential local services, such as schools, benefiting from an increase in younger population. A lack of development and, in turn, no change in the existing age profiles of communities, could threaten the future viability of schools. A lack of housing choice and provision may also affect decisions on whether growing younger families would wish to remain within a particular locality. More families make explicit decisions these days relating to school placement selection and it can be a contributing, possibly determining, factor in house-moving.*

**Question 14** *considers health care provision in the community. As the numbers of elderly people increase proportionately to the number of younger people, a key determining factor for people deciding whether to remain in an area or move to an area for the first time, is the availability of health facilities. Retention or establishment of health care facilities in a community could affect language viability, particularly where health centres have become social gathering places, supporting local Welsh-speaking networks. The lack of facilities may cause elderly people to move home, or lead to decisions where families take painful decisions to assist the move to elderly relations to other locations.*

**Question 15** *relates to the provision of services. Different types of development may impact upon the availability and viability of existing community services (which includes community halls and local business centres), even if those new developments are located some distance away. Larger retail development, for example, may impact on local services and impact upon social networks within the community that may presently act as meeting places, supporting community interaction. Decisions taken by larger businesses to relocate or close premises may also affect different sections of the population disproportionately. This would be dependent on the provision of public transport and private vehicles and the ease of access to them. This may also lead to the need to move home causing an effect on the sustainability of a community long-term.*

**Question 16** *turns to social and cultural concerns. Some forms of development have a readily identifiable propensity to fuel social tension – for example, developments that are obviously out of scale with communities, or uses that appear unsuited to the character / economy of a particular area. Large scale holiday village*

*developments have in the past been met with vociferous protest, as have proposals for youth detention or asylum centres. But often the potential for conflict is less obvious and more subtle. Retirement developments that may serve an external demand can fuel local unrest; they may lead to the arrival of non-Welsh speaking households. Likewise, new shopping centres may threaten local stores, which have played an integral role in local communities for many years. All such developments may be met with resentment. Certainly, they can violate local values and lead people to believe that cultural concerns are not being taken seriously. Overall, they may have a demoralising effect in Welsh communities.*

*Traditions and culture are underpinned by kinship and social networks.*

**Question 17** recognises that many different forms of development may lead to the effective removal of Welsh speakers or the introduction of non-Welsh speakers. If this happens, then family ties may be severed; social networks may be broken; and social cohesion can be lost. Again, out of scale development may pose a cultural threat, diluting or breaking those networks on which traditions are built. The recognition of such potential impacts is very much in the hands of local planning authorities, who will need to consult with community representatives.

Building on Question 17, the next **Question (18)** acknowledges that this loss of social cohesion – combined with developments that disproportionately affect younger people – i.e. new employment uses that fail to address local needs, or housing that is unaffordable to first time buyers – may have a catastrophic impact on community institutions. These can be central to the vitality of Welsh communities. Once gone, they are unlikely to return. Again, predicting such problems is a task for planning authorities in consultation with community groups. Authorities / local groups must draw on their knowledge of such institutions (Urdd involvement, the wellbeing of local eisteddfodau and so forth) of their current vitality, and the incremental impacts of developments that might disrupt social balance and local involvement over time.