



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

Replacement Local Development Plan

2023-2038

Welsh Language Topic Paper

December 2024



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1. Introduction

This topic paper is one of a range of papers prepared to offer more detailed information and to provide an explanation of the approach taken in the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP). This paper specifically discusses the trends, status and needs of the Welsh Language within the Neath Port Talbot Council (NPTC) administrative area and provides context for the RLDP.

This version of the Topic Paper is produced to inform the Pre-Deposit (or Preferred Strategy) Stage (December 2024) and it is anticipated it will be updated as the RLDP proceeds to Deposit. This paper will therefore be updated as the Plan progresses through its statutory stages.

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 future well-being of the language in Wales will depend on a wide variety of factors, including those which relate to education, demography, community changes and community capacity, housing access, and a sound economic base, factors that the planning system can influence to some extent, but which are not completely within its control. There is no intention to deal with all the factors which influence language in detail in this paper, but it is possible to deal with some basic elements and to gain a better understanding of the current position of the Welsh language in NPT and the challenges which it faces.

2. Welsh Language Policy Context

National Legislation - Welsh Language

The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011

In introducing the Welsh Language Measure and Welsh Language Standards, the Welsh Government's aims were to:

- Increase and improve Welsh language services for the people of Wales
- Ensure greater clarity and consistency in terms of the services that can be expected in Welsh
- Give the people of Wales rights in terms of receiving services through the medium of Welsh

Within this legislation, Councils need to ensure that any documents relating to a policy decision, should consider and seek the views on the potential impacts on opportunities to use the Welsh language, and not treat the Welsh language any less favourably than English. This legislation therefore directly impacts the RLDP.

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WBFGA)

The Act seeks to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales and create a Wales that we want to live in. The Act sets out 7 connected well-being goals for Wales;

- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of more cohesive communities
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
- A globally responsible Wales.

Of particular relevance to the Welsh Language is the well-being goal to achieve 'A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language'. Within the subtext of this goal, '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 Act places a duty on certain public bodies, including Local Authorities to work in a way that accords with the sustainable development principle and contribute positively towards achieving the well-being goals it presents.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires the Local authority as a representative of the Public Service Board to prepare a Well-being Plan. LDPs should have regard to the relevant local well-being plans and area statements which

have been produced for the area (paragraph 1.27 PPW Edition 12) and need to demonstrate compliance with the WBFGA and the 7 well-being goals.

National Legislation – Planning

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

Section 61 of the Act requires LPAs to keep under review the matters which may be expected to affect the development of their area, including the principal physical, economic, social and environmental characteristics of the authority and the extent to which the Welsh language is used in the area.

The Planning (Wales) Act 2015

The Planning (Wales) Act 2015 requires the Sustainability Appraisals of Local Development Plans to include an assessment of the likely effects of the plan on the use of the Welsh language within the area of the Authority (S.11(3)).

Welsh Government - Strategy, Framework, Guidance and Research

Planning and the Welsh Language: The Way Ahead (2005)

A national study by University College London (UCL) was commissioned in an attempt to produce a linguistic impact methodology which would enable local planning authorities to produce meaningful and practical policies to protect and promote the use of the Welsh language. Although the document was not adopted as part of national policy, it gives guidance on how to identify areas where the Welsh language is part of the social fabric. The report recommended that Language Sensitive Areas should be based on whether around 25% or more of residents are Welsh speaking based on the 2001 Census figures. A 25% threshold is advised based on the following:

- The national average of Welsh speakers is 20.8% (2001). The threshold should closely reflect the national average to ensure the majority of communities with a slightly higher percentage to the average are included.
- Planning Policy Wales states that every Local Authority should consider whether they have communities where the use of the language is part of the social fabric. It is considered reasonable to consider those communities which have a higher percentage of Welsh speakers than the national average.
- The 25% and over threshold, as opposed to the 30% threshold recommended by UCL, forms a contiguous area within Wales.

The guidance also states that culture and language are components of amenity and advertisements contribute in a visual way to the physical and social character of an area. The LDP therefore should include specific policies encouraging the use of

bilingual signs within areas where the language is a part of its linguistic and cultural character.

This document also provides a methodology for assessing the impact of new development on the Welsh language.

[Welsh Medium Education Strategy \(2010\)](#)

This strategy set out the ambition of the Welsh Government to ensure that Welsh-medium education and training was integral to parts of the education infrastructure. This strategy would therefore enable learners to use the language in their personal lives, socially and in the workplace.

[Cymraeg 2050: Welsh language Strategy \(2017\)](#)

This strategy sets the target of there being a million Welsh speakers by 2050, and that Welsh is used in every aspect of life. This strategy is underpinned by three strategic themes

- 1) Increasing the number of Welsh speakers
- 2) Increasing the use of Welsh
- 3) Creating favourable conditions- infrastructure and context.

Within this strategy, it sets out the Welsh Government's ambition for the Welsh language to be used more extensively and for the number who speak it to grow. The strategy also highlights that there is potential for growth in the number of Welsh speakers, particularly in areas of Wales that have high population density but lower percentages of Welsh speakers. At the same time we need to ensure the future vitality of Welsh-speaking communities as places that facilitate the use of the language in every aspect of life.

This means considering each area of Wales on the basis of its own linguistic composition, and planning in order to strike the appropriate balance locally. For example, in Welsh-speaking communities, the challenge is to ensure that people have good quality jobs, fulfilling careers and homes so that they can stay, or return to those communities. In other areas, promoting the use of Welsh as a language for the workplace and business will become increasingly important.

This strategy also aims to publish work programmes at regular intervals which will detail what action is required to achieve the goal of 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050. The first of these work programmes for 2017-2021 was published alongside this strategy, and the second, in 2021.

[Cymraeg 2050: Work Programme 2017-21 \(2017\)](#)

This work programme highlights key milestones that need to be met to ensure that Cymraeg 2050 will be achieved. These milestones are:

- A small increase in language transmission rates in families by the 2021 Census, continuing the trend seen between 2001 and 2011
- An increase in the percentage of learners in Welsh-medium education, from 22% (based on 7,700 seven-year-old learners in 2015/16) to 24 % (about 8,400) by 2021, to be on track to reach 30 % (about 10,500 in each year group) by 2031 and then 40% (about 14,000 in each year group) by 2050.

To facilitate an increase in Welsh-medium education, the Welsh Government will:

- Aim to support the expansion of Welsh language early years by 40 new groups by 2021
- Support growth in the number of teachers in Wales who can teach Welsh or teach through the medium of Welsh by 2021 as follows:
 - 3,100 primary teachers who can teach through the medium of Welsh (from a baseline of 2,900 in 2015/16)
 - 600 secondary teachers who can teach Welsh (from a baseline of 500 in 2015/16)
 - 2,200 secondary teachers who can teach through the medium of Welsh (from a baseline of 1,800 in 2015/16)

[Cymraeg 2050: Our Plan 2021 to 2026 \(2021\)](#)

With the first Work Programme having come to an end, this document outlines an assessment of how the key milestones noted for the first work programme have been met so far, and the next stages moving forward.

With regards to the targets set in the previous Work Programme:

- The target of an additional 40 nursery groups was met. This created 620 additional places. There were also encouraging transition rates between pre-school and Welsh-medium primary education (from 86.4% in 2015/16 to 88.1% in 2019 to 2020).
- The percentage of Year 2 children (usually 7 year olds) assessed through Welsh as a first language increased by just under 1 percentage point (from 22.0% in 2015 to 2016 to 22.8% in 2020 to 2021). Although the target of 24% by 2021 has not been met, there are encouraging signs in younger cohorts, where 23.8% of Reception class children (usually 5 year olds) were taught in Welsh in 2020 to 2021.
- Achieving the targets for the education workforce has been more challenging. There were 2,789 Welsh-medium primary teachers in the 2019 to 2020 academic year compared to the target in Cymraeg 2050 for 2021 of 3,100, a deficit of 311 (10.0%). In 2019 to 2020 there were 2,339 secondary teachers teaching in Welsh compared to the target of 2,800 for 2021, a deficit of 500 (16.5%).

It is important to note that the Covid-19 pandemic would have played an instrumental role in the success of the delivery of the overarching Cymraeg 2050 strategy.

In order to ensure that the three key strategic themes are met, the second work programme highlights that a five-year strategy will be prepared that brings together all aspects of language acquisition and lifelong language learning into a single holistic plan (later known as Cymraeg 2050), which is to be supported through a Welsh Language Education Bill.

[Cymraeg 2050: Welsh Language Strategy Action Plan 2022 to 2023 \(2022\)](#)

It is acknowledged that the world has changed significantly since the launch of 'Cymraeg 2050': the United Kingdom has left the European Union and the impacts COVID-19 are still being assessed. These issues have presented various challenges in terms of the Welsh language, and also a number of opportunities that need to be taken advantage of in future. The five-year 'Work Programme' takes this context into consideration.

This action plan continues to focus on the three key strategic themes, paying particular attention to:

- Taking advantage of every opportunity to mainstream 'Cymraeg 2050' in all Government portfolios;
- The importance of ensuring that Welsh remains the main language spoken in communities in the west and north-west, where there is a high density of Welsh-speakers;
- Developing the Welsh-speaking workforce, especially in education;
- Maintaining and creating more Welsh-medium spaces; and
- Creating bilingual citizens by offering opportunities for everyone of all ages to learn Welsh and use it regularly.

[Siarter Iaith: National Framework – A framework for implementing the Siarter Iaith \(Welsh Language Charter\) \(2023\)](#)

The purpose of this document is to update the Charter's strategic documents, setting a national direction and vision for the programme and is targeted at everyone involved in the implementation of the Welsh Language Charter (WLC) programme.

The WLC programme contributes to Cymraeg 2050 by aiming to inspire children and young people to use and enjoy Welsh in all aspects of their lives. The WLC is part of a series of the Welsh Government programmes which aim to increase children and young people's use of Welsh in informal situations. The WLC is for everyone, the whole school workforce and the wider community.

[Draft Priorities for Culture in Wales 2024-2030 \(2024\) Consultation document](#)

This draft consultation culture strategy is underpinned by the belief that the power of the arts, culture and creativity can support individual and community well-being. It outlines 3 priorities and subsequent ambitions to support the principle that every person in Wales has the right to access, create, participate in, and see themselves reflected in a cultural activity of our nation.

The priorities are:

- Culture brings us together
- A nation of culture - within this, it is noted that culture supports and promotes the Welsh language and reflects Wales as a bilingual and multilingual nation.
- Culture is resilient and sustainable

As noted, there is a section regarding the Welsh language. Here, it is acknowledged that promoting it and celebrating it must be embedded across all areas of activity in our sectors. The ambition also recognises the cultural importance of all languages used by communities throughout Wales. Languages broaden horizons, deepen learning and understanding and open doors to new experiences. The Welsh Government wishes to see the culture sector embracing the challenge of embedding additional languages into its programming. Developing British Sign Language and Braille resources and experiences and responding to the linguistic needs of local communities will ensure that our sectors are as inclusive and accessible as possible.

[Empowering Communities, Strengthening the Welsh Language \(August 2024\)](#)

The Commission for Welsh-speaking Communities was established by the Welsh Government in August 2022 to make policy recommendations with the aim of strengthening Welsh-speaking communities.

Within this report, town and country planning, alongside other policy areas such as economic development, welsh language workplaces, community development, housing, equality, diversity and inclusion, education and community-based language planning, are indicated as areas where intervention is required in order to protect the Welsh language and culture.

The report highlights that changes will need to be made to planning policies and guidelines to strengthen the linguistic sustainability of communities. As a minimum, the report highlights that PPW and FW need to have more of an emphasis on the Welsh language, and this needs to be followed through to the DPM.

This is likely to be a significant undertaking, and it will be necessary to scrutinise town and country planning nationally, as well as within areas of higher density linguistic significance. Due to the importance of this policy area, it is anticipated that

the Commission will publish an additional report, making detailed recommendations in regard to town and country planning, by December 2024. The conclusions of this additional report will be taken into account in future iterations of this paper to inform the deposit draft plan.

The report also highlights a number of key recommendations. One of them is for the Welsh Government to introduce new primary legislation requiring local authorities to designate 'areas of higher density linguistic significance' in Wales. The report details a number of potential ways for defining such areas including if the percentage of Welsh speakers within that area is greater than 40% according to the 2021 census. It also suggests that adjoining areas may be designated or areas at lower percentages at the local authorities' discretion. Reviewing the methodology options proposed within this report will provide a good insight into how the RLDP Welsh language policy could be formed.

Planning and the Welsh Language

Planning Policy Wales Edition 12 (2024) (PPW)

National policy reinforces the provisions of the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 by reiterating that the likely effects of development plans on the use of the Welsh language must be assessed as part of the Plan's sustainability appraisal.

PPW, para 3.26 also states that 'Planning authorities should seek to ensure a broad distribution and phasing of development that takes into account the ability of the area or community to accommodate development without adversely impacting use of the Welsh language'. Additionally, 'Development plans should include a statement on how planning authorities have taken the needs and interests of the Welsh language into account in plan preparation and how any policies relating to the Welsh language interact with other plan policies.' (para 3.27).

Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 (2021)

The Welsh Government adopted Future Wales: The National Plan 2040, as the Development Plan for Wales. Future Wales (FW) identifies a series of 11 outcomes to deliver on its aims. Outcome 4 centres around the Welsh language, noting that the Framework aims to create:

'A Wales where people live ... in places with a thriving Welsh Language. We aim to have a million Welsh speakers in Wales by 2050 – an increase of almost 80% on current levels. The language will be an embedded consideration in the spatial strategy of all development plans. Where Welsh is the everyday language of the community, development will be managed to ensure there are jobs and homes to enable the language to remain central to those communities' identities. Elsewhere development will be a positive force

towards encouraging the creation of education and social infrastructure to enable the language to develop as a natural, thriving part of communities.’

FW divides the nation into four distinct regions, and Neath Port Talbot County borough is situated within the South West Wales region. Data presented in FW relating to the numbers of Welsh speakers across the South West Wales region is referenced later in section 3 of this paper.

The ambition highlighted in FW needs to be reflected in other development plans and strategies, including LDP’s. There is a requirement that the RLDP’s spatial strategy and settlement hierarchy help meet the Future Wales outcomes, including creating or safeguarding places where the Welsh language can thrive.

[Technical Advice Note 20: Planning and the Welsh Language \(October 2017\)](#)

Technical Advice Note 20 comprises 2 elements: the first part outlines guidance on preparing LDPs and the consideration of the Welsh language in the development management process. Whilst the second part provides practice guidance to assist in the consideration of Welsh language issues during the preparation of LDPs.

A summary of the key points pertinent to the production of an LDP is provided below:

- Local Planning Authorities (LPA) are required to consider the relationship of the LDP strategy, policies and site allocations with social and community needs and opportunities through a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) (para 2.1.2)
- The Community Involvement Scheme, as part of the Delivery Agreement, can be utilised to seek community views on how the Welsh language and culture interact with LDP policies and proposals (para 2.2)
- The SA should give consideration to the use of the language so far as it is relevant to the use of land which should assess evidence of the impact of the spatial strategy, policies and allocations on the use of the Welsh language (para 2.3.1)
- At the Preferred Strategy stage of the Plan’s preparation the SA should record appraisal work undertaken to date including predicting and evaluating the effects of the LDP options on social, environmental and cultural objectives (para 2.5)
- At the Deposit stage of the Plan’s preparation the LPA should ensure that the plan strategy, policies and land allocations are consistent with the SA which should have regard to the likely effects of the plan on the use of the Welsh language (para 2.6)
- The LDP can define areas of linguistic sensitivity or significance where the Welsh language may be a consideration (para 2.7)

- Mitigation measures should be identified in the LDP and developer contributions through the Community Infrastructure Levy or section 106 agreements may be used to this end (paras 2.8 and 2.9)
- In preparing and gathering evidence, the LPA should utilise existing sources of information such as the local wellbeing plan, census data, Welsh Language Use Survey data, local strategies and initiatives and information relating to education provision, economic factors and community facilities.
- In assessing the evidence gathered, the LPA's approach is likely to be influenced by some or all of the following factors:
 - Can the majority, or a significant number of the population, speak Welsh within communities in the plan area?
 - Are the numbers of Welsh speakers generally increasing or decreasing?
 - Migration patterns and the age profile of those moving out of, and in to, the area. What demands does this place on services and infrastructure?
- Key policy matters to be assessed may include policies relating to housing, employment land, community facilities and education infrastructure, planning obligations and signage.
- Measures may be required to mitigate the adverse impacts, alongside actions to promote positive impacts. These should be identified during the plan-making stage and set out in the Deposit Plan and any matters of detail may be included in SPG.

In summary, LPAs must consider the likely effects of their development plan as part of the SA process and include a statement within the deposit plan on how this has been considered and/or addressed within the development plan. The SA process is the mechanism for considering how the scale and location of growth, the vision, objectives, policies and proposals individually and in combination, impact on the Welsh language. Where evidence indicates a detrimental impact on the use of the Welsh language the LPA can assess whether the strategy should be amended or mitigation measures should be identified.

With regards to the Development Management process, the TAN considers that if an appropriate Sustainability Appraisal has been undertaken, there is no need for planning applications to be routinely subjected to a Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA). However, in the case of large windfall sites (of 10 or more dwellings or developments of over 1,000 sqm or 1 hectare – or a locally set appropriate threshold in the LDP), one may be required to ensure that the same scrutiny is given to these sites too. For this, the LPA is responsible for conducting any assessment and for determining the form of the WLIA. Impact assessments may be conducted for any type of windfall development proposals but LPAs should carefully consider what benefit is expected from assessing proposed employment, retail or commercial development. Evidence from the language impact assessment

may be material to the application and may inform whether measures to mitigate or enhance the impacts of the development on the use of the Welsh language should be applied.

Development Plans Manual, Edition 3, 2020

It is noted within the Development Plans Manual (DPM) that the Welsh language must be considered from the outset of the development plan process. Paragraph 5.15 states that, when considering the settlement assessment work that informs the distribution of growth, the LPA must identify areas of linguistic sensitivity or importance to ensure growth is suitably directed to areas where the impact on the Welsh language can be positive.

Local Policy and Strategies

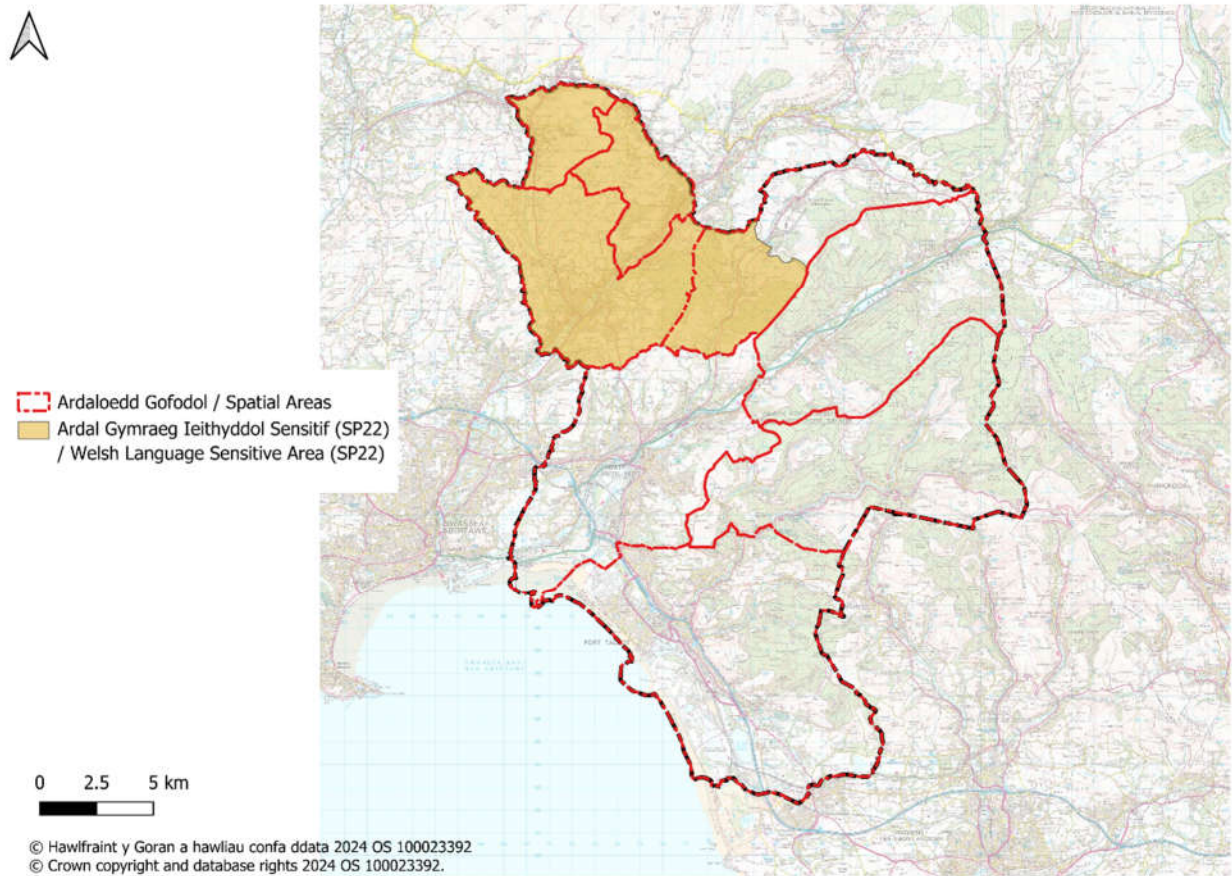
Neath Port Talbot Adopted Local Development Plan (2016)

The current NPT LDP 2011-2026 was adopted in January 2016. Objective 25 of the Adopted Local Development Plan (LDP), under 'respecting distinctiveness', states that a key objective of the LDP is to 'Preserve and enhance the area's cultural heritage and identity with a focus on the Welsh language in language sensitive areas'. The LDP identified four areas under policy SP22 'Welsh language' where Welsh language would be safeguarded and promoted within language sensitive areas (LSAs). These areas are:

- 1) Amman Valley
- 2) Swansea Valley
- 3) Pontardawe
- 4) The community of Crynant in the Dulais Valley.

Figure 2.1 shows the location of these LSA's.

Figure 2.1 NPT LDP 2011-2026 Language Sensitive Areas



Source: Adopted LDP

Policy SP22 seeks to protect the integrity of the Welsh language within areas identified, where 25% or more of the population speak Welsh. This strategy was based on the findings of the 2011 census and other factors as outlined in the LDP's Welsh language Background Paper, 2016.

Under policy WL1 'Developments in Language Sensitive Areas', residential schemes of 10 or more dwellings, or retail, commercial or industrial development with a total floorspace of 1,000 sqm or more within a LSA will be required to submit a Welsh Language Action Plan (WLAP), setting out measures to be taken to protect, promote and enhance the Welsh language.

The policies within the LDP are supported by the 'Development and the Welsh Language' Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG).

Development and the Welsh Language Supplementary Planning Guidance (July 2017)

Supplementing policies SP22 and WL1 of the Adopted LDP, this Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) sets out the relevant matters that will need to be taken into consideration when developments are being planned in the designated 'language sensitive areas'.

The SPG elaborates on policy SP22 and the thresholds and requirements set out in WL1. It provides practical guidance on the preparation, structure and content of WLAPs. It also sets out a methodology for calculating Section 106 contributions to be used for the implementation of mitigation measures (e.g. Welsh language courses and training).

NPT LDP Review Report (July 2020)

The LDP Review Report highlighted that 'a review of the latest statistical data will be needed to determine whether there will be a need to amend the extent of the designated LSA or whether the policy thresholds require revision. Consideration may also be given to a bilingual signage policy.'

Furthermore, no concerns were expressed in terms of the clarity and wording of the policies at the Officer Working Group. In general, the policy appears to be working well and will be retained within the Replacement LDP.

Corporate Plan 'Recover, Reset, Renew 2022-2027'

This overarching Corporate plan sets out how the council will approach recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic in the short, medium and longer term. It contains the four well-being objectives:

- 1) All children get the best start in life;
- 2) All communities are thriving and sustainable;
- 3) Our local environment, culture and heritage can be enjoyed by future generations; and
- 4) Local people are skilled and access high quality, green jobs.

Within objective (3), it is highlighted to further develop and implement our Welsh Language Promotion Strategy. Heritage is integral to NPT's culture, people's sense of identity and sense of belonging which in turn impacts on people's health, wellbeing and social inclusion. Heritage and culture also contributes to the economy, supporting paid employment, helping to attract inward investment and generating value through voluntary action – part of NPT's wider place shaping agenda.

The Council fully supports the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 ambition to achieve a million people able to enjoy speaking Welsh by 2050. Through the 'Let's Talk' campaign, residents have informed the Corporate plan by highlighting that their

local environment, the Welsh Language and NPT's heritage and culture matters to them.

Public Services Board Well-Being Plan 2023-28

The Public Services Board have undertaken a Well-being Assessment reviewing the social, environmental, economic and cultural landscape of NPT and from this they have agreed on four well-being objectives to prioritise their work for the next five years. These are:

- To ensure all children get the best start in life;
- To ensure all our communities are thriving and sustainable;
- To ensure our local environment, culture and heritage can be enjoyed by future generations; and
- To ensure there are more secure, green and well paid jobs and that skills across the area are improved.

Within this Well-Being Plan, there is the goal of creating a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language.

Whilst the number of Welsh speakers has declined, learning and Welsh educational opportunities are increasing. The Plan seeks to provide more opportunities to use and learn the Welsh language and promote its importance to NPT's culture.

Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032

This strategic plan builds upon the 2017-2020 Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP), in that Welsh-medium education is an integral and essential part of the learning offer in NPT. The WESP 2022-32, vision is to 'secure favourable circumstances throughout the country that support language acquisition and the use of Welsh language skills. We want to see an increase in language transmission in the family, early introduction of Welsh to every child, an education system that provides Welsh language skills for all' and details how NPT plans to support and further develop Welsh language education in schools and in the wider communities, as well as planning for future growth.

The Plan includes an assessment of how the 2017-2020 WESP has progressed, and contains a geographic and demographic assessment of evidence into the use of Welsh language within NPT.

Analysis of the data shows that the strategic plan will require a proactive and reactive approach to include:

- Establishing new Welsh-medium schools in areas where the demand for Welsh-medium education is identified (such as in the south east of the authority); and
- Creating a demand for Welsh-medium education in new geographical areas.

Engagement undertaken in relation to the WESP is detailed in the stakeholder engagement section 4 of this paper.

In order to deliver the WESP the main objectives are:

- To bring forward a proposal to create a further 3 Welsh medium primary schools within the ten-year plan;
- To increase the transfer rates between pre-school and Welsh-medium school-based provision by 80% during the lifetime of the plan: NPT will deliver an action plan in conjunction with providers such as Mudiad Meithrin;
- To ensure increased transition rates from Welsh-medium primary schools to Welsh-medium secondary schools with the aim of securing 100% transition rate per year;
- To establish later entry point linguistic support for pupils wishing access to Welsh Medium Education through latecomer immersion provision for both primary and secondary learners;
- To ensure that Welsh language provision across all Welsh and English medium settings provides pupils with the skills and ability to become confident and sustained speakers of Welsh;
- To ensure that post 16 provision through the medium of Welsh is strengthened and thus meets the needs and aspirations of all students;
- To maintain the availability of transport in line with the approved council travel policy in order to promote access to Welsh-medium provision;
- To ensure that children and young people with Additional Learning Needs receive linguistic equality of opportunity in terms of Welsh-medium education and support in accordance with the duties imposed by the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018;
- To ensure that access, locally or regionally, to professional training to support the development of effective Welsh teaching and learning which responds to the identified needs of those working in both the English and Welsh-medium sectors;
- To recognise Welsh as being essential in role specifications when recruiting all school-based staff; we will clearly outline our expectations in terms of skill-level requirement (from Level 0 to 3) and provide in-house training to support staff development; and
- To ensure that the WESP Forum has clear objectives to enable it to deliver the outcomes effectively.

[Welsh Language Promotion Strategy \(WLPS\) 2023-2028](#)

The initial strategy was launched in 2018, however this document represents the first revision of the Council's strategy to promote and support the Welsh language in NPT. This revision has taken account of, and builds upon, the progress made in the initial strategy, the commitments of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032

(WESP) as well as the work of other partners in promoting the Welsh language locally.

The strategy aims that by 2028, the Welsh language will be more audible and visible in our communities and used by an increased number of people in their daily lives.

The strategy sets out key areas for action, such as promoting the benefits of bilingualism/language awareness to young families and all newcomers into NPT, working with partners to increase the visibility of Welsh across leisure, business and cultural locations, activities and events and working with services to ensure Welsh is a key element of all new strategies and plans.

A summary of contextual information and data provided in this strategy is set out in the next section of this paper.

3. Overview of Welsh language use in NPT

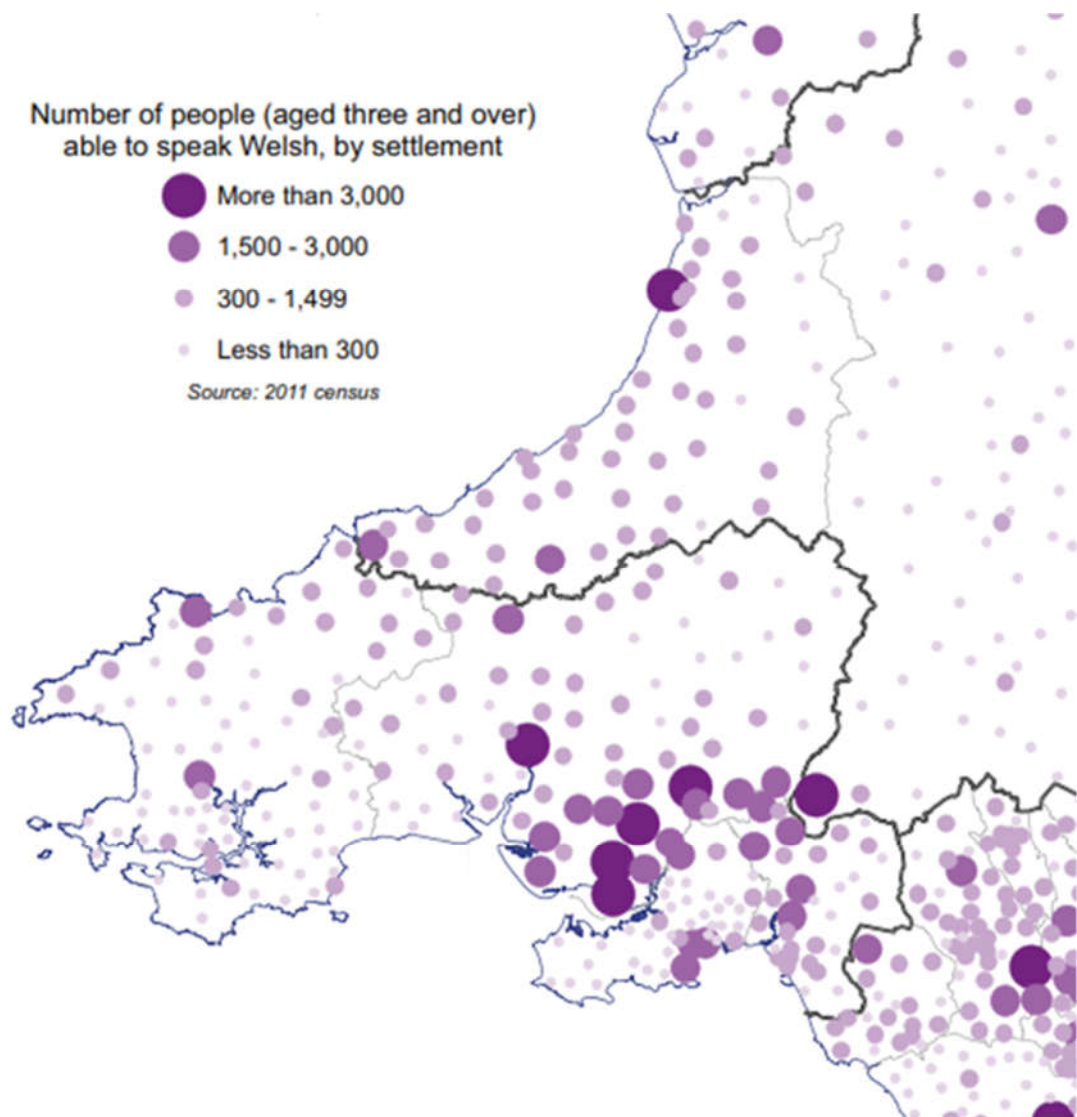
Overview

There are three main data sources that outline the use of the Welsh language across the authority; Census data, the Annual Population Survey and data from the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

National and Regional Context

Figure 3.1 is taken from Future Wales, and highlights the numbers of Welsh speakers in region, according to the 2011 census across the South West region.

Figure 3.1 Number of people (aged three and over) able to speak Welsh by Settlement



Source: FW 2040

This figure shows the majority of the greatest concentrations of Welsh speakers towards the western side of Neath Port Talbot County Borough, in particular in the North West which adjoins high concentrations of Welsh speakers in Carmarthenshire and South West Powys. Whilst no concentrations of people able to speak Welsh of more than 3,000 people (aged 3 and over) are identified within Neath Port Talbot, such concentrations are identified nearby across the border in the Upper Swansea Valley and the Amman Valley.

According to the 2021 Census, 18,670 (13.5%) of NPT residents aged 3 or older can speak Welsh. This is a decrease from the 20,700 (15.3%) recorded for this same age group in the 2011 census.

The proportion of Welsh speakers has been steadily decreasing across NPT. This picture is synonymous with NPT's neighbouring authorities, as well as Wales overall. The following table 3.1 highlights this trend using data from the 1991, 2001, 2011 and 2021 censuses, across neighbouring authorities and provides a Wales-wide picture.

Table 3.1 – Proportion of people speaking Welsh according to Census data.

Local Authority	1991 % residents speaking Welsh	2001 % residents speaking Welsh	2011 % residents speaking Welsh	2021 % residents speaking Welsh
NPT	17.8	18	15.3	13.5
Swansea	13.31	13.4	11.4	11.2
Carmarthenshire	54.83	50.3	43.9	39.9
Powys	20.63	21.8	19.2	16.4
RCT	8.99	12.5	12.3	12.4
Bridgend	8.3	10.8	9.7	9.2
Wales	18.7	20.8	19	17.8

Source: Figures obtained from Stats Wales¹ and 1991 census

As noted by table 3.1, this declining trend is Wales-wide. However, the percentage of Welsh speakers within NPT alone appears to have declined faster than the national

¹ <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Welsh-Language/Census-Welsh-Language/welshspeakers-by-la-broadage-2001and2011census>

trend, with an overall decline of 4.5% in NPT compared to 3% across Wales as a whole during the 2001 to 2021 census period.

Local Context

Census Data - General Welsh Skills

It is important to note from the outset that due to the differences between censuses and the questions asked, the only tangible question that can be used since 1991 is the number of people speaking Welsh.

However, the 2021 census included an additional question regarding people’s ability to understand spoken Welsh, speak Welsh, read Welsh and write Welsh, and allowed a combination of these to be selected. Anyone with any ability to understand, speak, read or write in Welsh is classed as having some Welsh skills.

In order to gauge the usage of the Welsh language across the authority, the following table provides a high-level assessment showing the proportion of people across the eight spatial areas of NPTC that have some Welsh skills is provided below.

Table 3.2: Total and percentage of people with some Welsh skills across the LDP spatial areas.

LDP Spatial Area	Total with some Welsh skills	Percentage with some Welsh skills	Rank
Amman Valley	2440	57.89	1
Swansea Valley	2888	48.5	2
Pontardawe	4604	36.97	3
Dulais Valley	1527	29.78	4
Neath Valley*	2377	21.84	5
Neath*	7983	16.63	6
Port Talbot	6739	14.64	7
Afan Valley	1387	14.47	8

Source: 2021 census.

**Please refer to Appendix 1 for a summary of ward boundary changes which affect the spatial areas of Neath and Neath Valley*

Table 3.2 above shows that there are Welsh language skills strongholds across the authority – namely in the Amman Valley and Swansea Valley. The spatial areas of Afan Valley, and Port Talbot have a significantly less proportion of the population that have Welsh language skills.

As previously acknowledged, being a Welsh speaker is not the only indication of Welsh language usage – however, it is more difficult to monitor the uptake of reading and writing due to the differences in census questions.

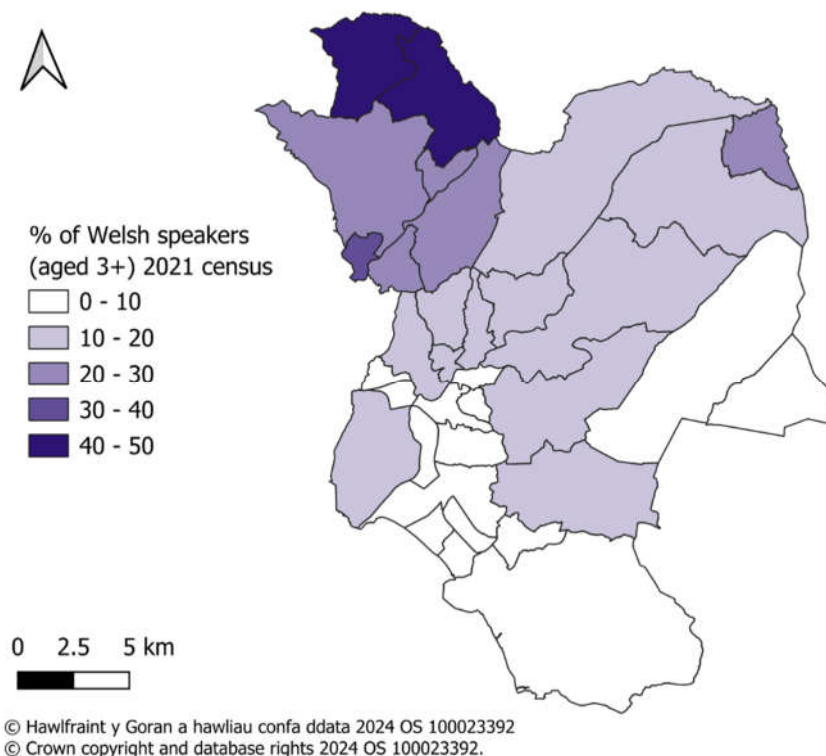
Given consistency issues across the different censuses, the next section looks solely at the data collated concerning Welsh speaking across the various censuses. It therefore does not include data such as those that can read, write or a combination of all abilities (including speaking).

Census Data - Welsh Speaking

Figure 3.2 shows the distribution of Welsh speakers per electoral ward as recorded in the 2021 census. The figure shows that there is a greater proportion of Welsh speakers towards the northwest of the authority, incorporating Amman Valley, Pontardawe, and Swansea Valley spatial areas. The lowest percentage of Welsh speakers within NPT during the 2021 census was around the Afan Valley spatial area, where the wards of Cymmer and Glyncoerrwg had 5.95% Welsh speakers, and Gwynfi and Croeserw had 5.32%.

Figure 3.2 highlights the dilution of figures associated with the community of Crynant in the Dulais Valley which is designated as a LSA in the adopted LDP since it has been merged with Seven Sisters and Onllwyn following ward boundary changes. It also shows one ward outside of an LSA where the percentage of Welsh speakers is above 20% and that is the Glynneath Central and East ward.

Figure 3.2 Percentage residents aged 3+ speaking Welsh in 2021 by Electoral ward



Source: 2021 Census

This information is also shown in Table 3.3 below alongside actual numbers of Welsh speakers in wards. Three wards have concentrations of over 1,000 Welsh speakers and are highlighted in green. Other concentrations exist where clusters of adjoining wards are considered collectively including the Coedffranc Wards, the Neath Wards, the Allt-wen and Rhos wards, and the Sandfields east and west together with Aberavon wards. Seven wards have less than 300 Welsh speakers and have been highlighted in orange. It is also worth noting that the ward of Crynant, Onllwyn and Seven Sisters has just below 1,000 Welsh speakers with 939 recorded.

Table 3.3 Number and Percentage of People aged 3+ who are Welsh speaking by Electoral Ward 2021 Census

Electoral ward	Total 3+ Welsh Speaking (Numbers)	Total 3+ Welsh Speaking (Percentage)
Aberavon	346	6.29
Aberdulais	288	12.44
Allt-wen	631	24.02
Baglan	563	8.56
Blaengwrach and Glynneath West	377	12.32
Briton Ferry East	236	8.3
Briton Ferry West	261	9.3
Bryn and Cwmavon	812	12.73
Bryncoch North	260	12.97
Bryncoch South	586	11.1
Cadoxton	186	11.97
Cimla and Pelenna	484	10.2
Coedffranc Central	443	8.86
Coedffranc North	221	9.85
Coedffranc West	543	10.64
Crynant, Onllwyn and Seven Sisters	939	18.8
Cwmllynfell and Ystalyfera	1,553	41.03
Cymer and Glyncothrog	124	5.95
Dyffryn	323	10.04
Glynneath Central and East	465	22.2
Godre'r Graig	538	27.04
Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen and Lower Brynamman	1,985	48.64
Gwynfi and Croeserw	134	5.32
Margam and Taibach	642	8.43
Neath East	487	8.23
Neath North	351	9.47
Neath South	448	9.62
Pontardawe	1,380	25.89

Electoral ward	Total 3+ Welsh Speaking (Numbers)	Total 3+ Welsh Speaking (Percentage)
Port Talbot	485	8.69
Resolven and Tonna	583	10.7
Rhos (Neath Port Talbot)	544	21.63
Sandfields East	425	6.55
Sandfields West	506	7.69
Trebanos	508	30.53

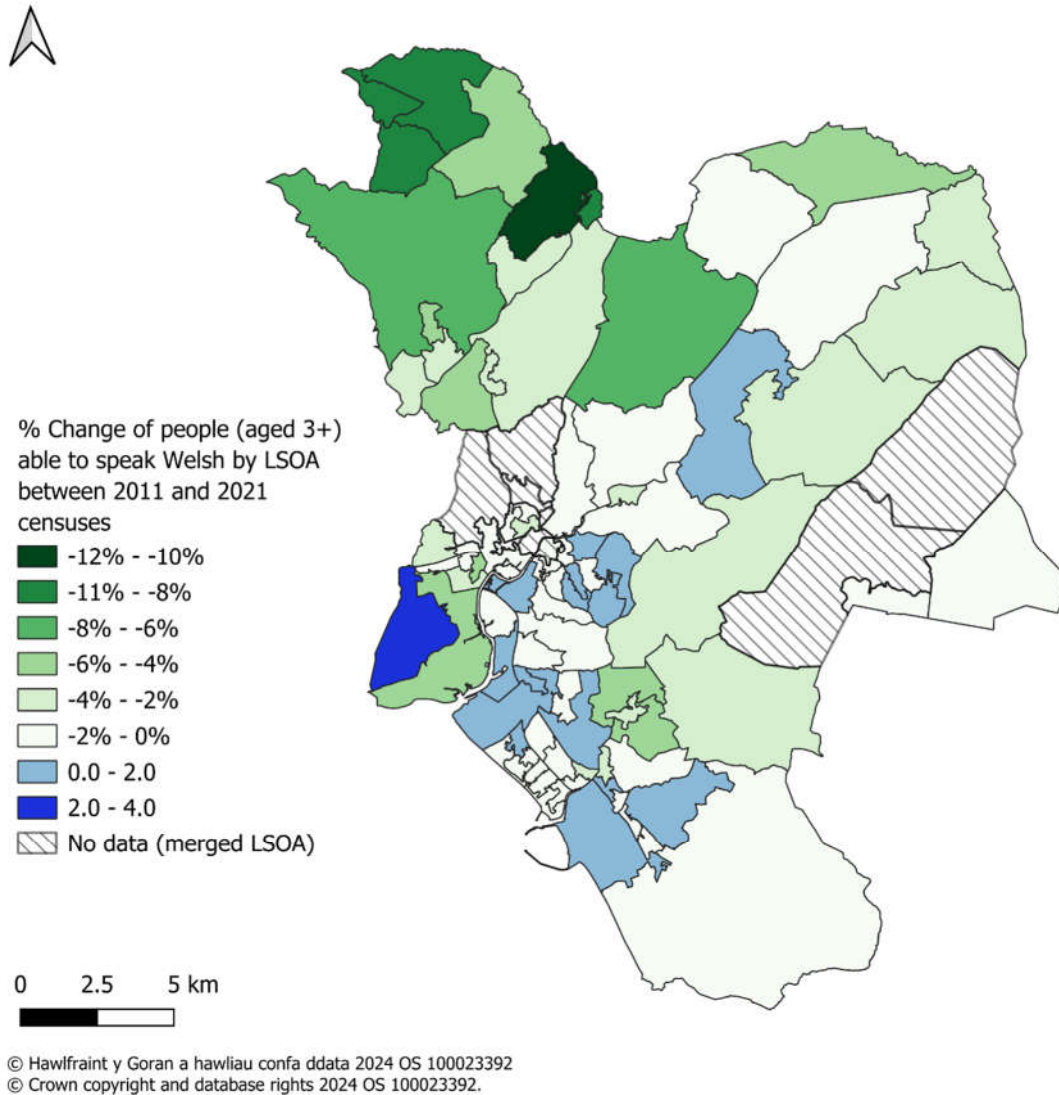
Source: 2021 Census

Green cells indicate the number of Welsh speakers above 1,000

Orange cells indicate the number of Welsh speakers below 300

The declining figures for NPT do hide some areas of anomalies. Figure 3.3 below is taken from DataMapWales and shows the percentage change of people aged 3 or older able to speak Welsh between the 2011 and 2021 censuses, by Lower Super Output Area (LSOA). Here, it is possible to see that there are areas where there has been a sharp decline, such as around Ystalyfera, Lower Brynamman and Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen, where the percentage decline was between 8 to 12 %. These areas are traditionally those within the authority that are Welsh-speaking strongholds. In other areas of NPT, the rate of Welsh speaking has increased, such as in Coedffranc West (which includes Llandarcy). These small increases could be linked to an increase in welsh medium education provision in these areas or an increase in population as a result of housing development.

Figure 3.3 – Percentage change of people aged 3 or older able to speak Welsh by LSOA 2011-2021



Source: DataMapWales data, exported to NPTC boundary

Looking more closely at the levels of Welsh speakers across the authority, Table 3.4 highlights the changes that have taken place from since the 1991 census. Note that due to the changes made to ward boundaries between 2011 and 2021, it has been necessary to tweak the data / wards so that a temporal view of the authority can be undertaken. Appendix 1 highlights these changes and how this topic paper has taken account of them.

Using the information contained at Appendix 1, the following table (table 3.4) shows the percentage speakers between 1991 and 2021 by spatial area. Note that those

spatial areas that are LSA's are also indicated in this table. Data analysis between 1991, 2001, 2011 and 2021 censuses are contained within Appendix 2.

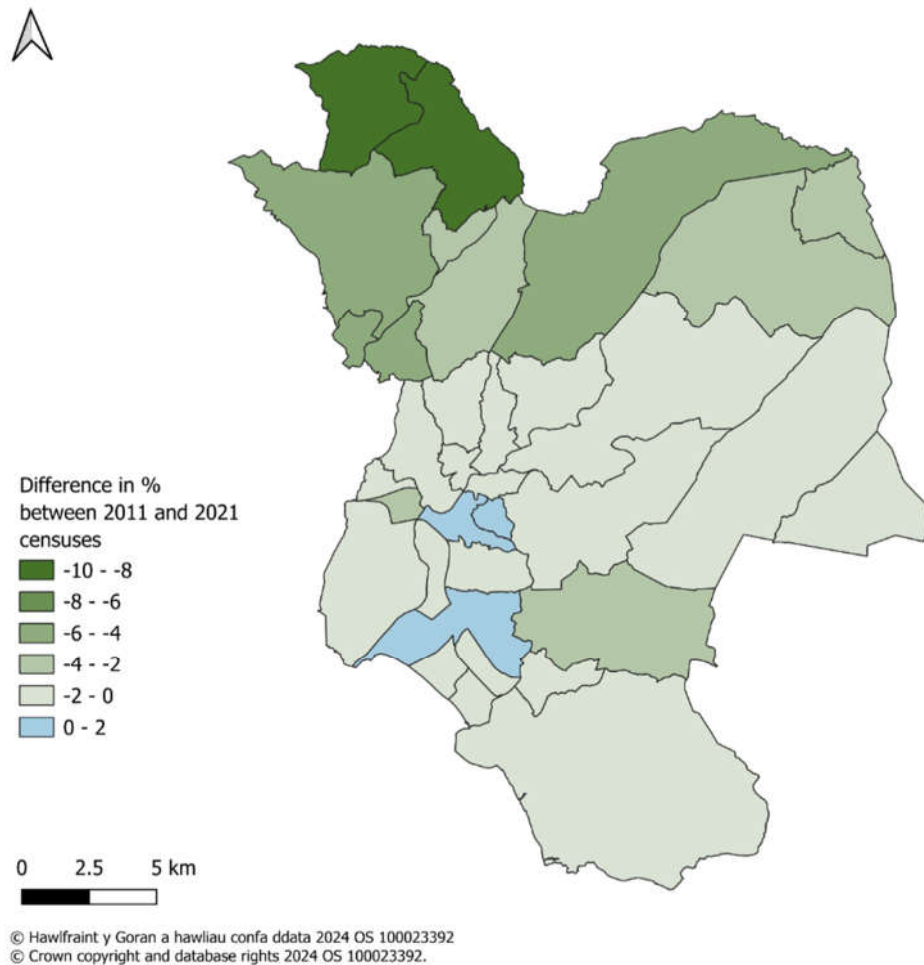
Table 3.4 – Percentage of Welsh Speakers as recorded in 1991 and 2021 censuses by spatial area

Spatial area	1991% Welsh Speakers	2001% Welsh Speakers	2011% Welsh Speakers	2021 % Welsh Speakers
Amman Valley (LSA)	78.28	66.57	57.37	48.64
Swansea Valley (LSA)	63.49	52.46	44.15	36.21
Pontardawe (LSA)	40.07	34.91	29.69	25.24
Dulais Valley (part LSA)	29.53	25.3	22.84	18.8
Neath Valley	16.68	16.36	14.98	13.44
Neath	10.22	12.04	10.64	9.96
Port Talbot	8.99	10.43	9.44	8.45
Afan Valley	5.7	8.2	6.7	5.6

Source: 1991 and 2021 census data

Figure 3.4 below focuses on the difference in percentage of Welsh speakers between the two most recent censuses in 2011 and 2021 and shows the greatest decline in the north west of the county and slight increases in wards of Neath East and South and Baglan.

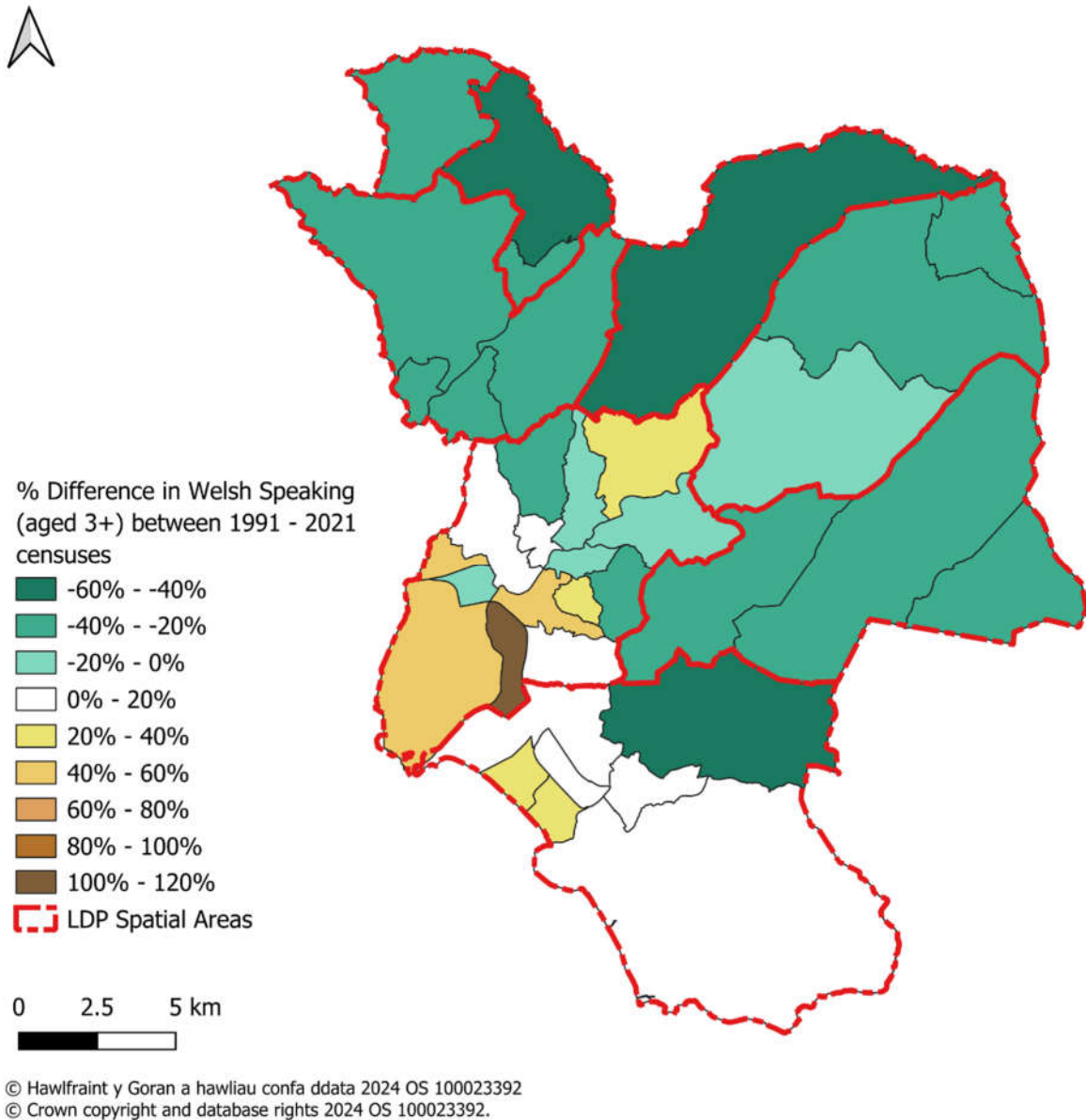
Figure 3.4 Difference in Percentage of Welsh Speakers between 2011 and 2021 by electoral ward.



Source: 2011 and 2021 Census

Figure 3.5 highlights longer term trends and the difference in percentages between 1991 and 2021 by ward and spatial area. The figure shows that there has been the most significant decline within the Swansea Valley, Amman Valley, Pontardawe and the Dulais Valley Spatial Areas. It also shows that decline in the % of Welsh speakers has been experienced in all 6 of the Spatial Areas that make up the Valleys Strategy Area as designated in the adopted LDP. The decline has been less significant within the Coastal Corridor Strategy Area with some wards positively experiencing an increase in the % of Welsh speakers.

Figure 3.5 – Percentage difference of people aged 3 or older able to speak Welsh by ward and LDP strategy area 1991-2021



Source: 1991 and 2021 Census

Whilst these figures show that there has been an overall percentage decline in Welsh speakers, it is important to note that in some parts of the county borough, there has been a general increase in the actual numbers of people that speak Welsh.

To put this into context, the following tables highlight the overall percentages of residents (aged 3+) by ward (as amended at Appendix 1) according to the 1991, 2001, 2011 and 2021 censuses. The two tables are split to highlight the differences between the wards within a LSA (table 3.5), and those that are not (table 3.6).

Table 3.5: Percentage of Welsh speakers by Ward during 1991, 2001, 2011 and 2021 censuses in the LDP's LSA wards

Ward	1991: Total % Welsh speakers Age 3+	2001: Total % Welsh speakers Age 3+	2011: Total % Welsh speakers Age 3+	2021: Total % Welsh speakers Age 3+
Allt-wen	40.1	34.8	29.5	24.02
<i>Crynant, Onllwyn and Seven Sisters* (only part LSA)</i>	29.53	25.30	22.84	18.80
<i>Cwmllynfell & Ystalyfera *</i>	69.3	56.8	46.6	41.03
Godre'r graig	46.3	40.4	30.1	27.04
<i>Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen and Lower Brynamman*</i>	78.28	66.57	57.37	48.6
<i>Pontardawe and Trebanos*</i>	43.3	37.6	31.6	27.0
Rhos	31.4	27.9	24.7	21.63

Source: 1991, 2001, 2011 and 2021 census data.

Red cells indicate that the percentage of Welsh speakers makes up 25% or less of the ward population

Light Orange cells indicate that the percentage of Welsh speakers is greater than 20% but less than 40% of the ward population

Bright orange cells indicate that the percentage of Welsh speakers is greater than 40%.

**Ward boundaries and the differences between the 2011 and 2021 ward boundaries are discussed at Appendix 1.*

Within table 3.5, it is evident that the greatest concentration of Welsh speakers is within Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen and Lower Brynamman Ward, as well as Cwmllynfell and Ystalyfera. Both of these wards have over 40% of Welsh speakers.

In both Rhos and Crynant, Onllwyn and Seven Sisters wards, the percentage of Welsh speakers dropped to below 25% in 2011, and dropped again in 2021. The ward of Alltwn dropped below 25% for the first time according to the 2021 census.

Table 3.6 below highlights that the majority of wards have seen a decline in Welsh speakers, with only a few wards within the coastal urban area, namely Neath East, Neath South and Baglan experiencing an increase between the 2011 and 2021 censuses.

The ward with the lowest percentage % in 1991 was Briton Ferry West with 4.1%. The ward with the highest % in 1991 was Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen and Lower Brynamman with 78.3%. The ward with the lowest % in 2021 was Cymer, Glynccorwg / Gwynfi and Croeserw with 5.6%. The ward with the highest % in 2021 was Cwmllynfell & Ystalyfera with 41.03%. This shows that the variance in the levels of welsh-speakers has narrowed significantly over the 30 year period.

These tables show that in 9 wards, the number of Welsh speakers has increased from the 1991 figures (albeit there have been some declines over the years). Appendix 2 contains a complete analysis of the 1991, 2001, 2011 and 2021 censuses.

Table 3.6: Percentage of Welsh speakers by Ward, 2021 census in the LDP's non-LSA wards

Ward	1991: Total % Welsh speakers Age 3+	2001: Total % Welsh speakers Age 3+	2011: Total % Welsh speakers Age 3+	2021: Total % Welsh speakers Age 3+
Aberavon	5.1	7.6	7.9	6.29
Aberdulais	11.9	15.7	13.5	12.44
Baglan	8.2	10.1	8.4	8.56
Blaengwrach & Glynneath West / Glynneath Central and East*	21.0	20.0	18.6	16.33
Briton Ferry East	6.6	10.0	8.6	8.30
Briton Ferry West	4.1	9.1	9.5	9.30
Bryn and Cwmavon	22.8	19.5	16.2	12.73
Bryncoch North	16.6	15.8	13.9	12.97
Bryncoch South / Duffryn *	12.1	12.7	11.9	10.7
Cadoxton	13.9	15.3	12.8	11.97
Cimla and Pelenna*	13.07	13.3	10.67	10.20
Coedffranc Central	12.0	11.8	11.0	8.86
Coedffranc North / Coedffranc West *	12.3	12.3	11.9	10.4
Cymer and Glynccorwg / Gwynfi and Croeserw *	5.7	8.2	6.7	5.6
Margam & Taibach, Port Talbot*	8.1	9.2	9.0	8.5
Neath East	5.8	10.3	8.1	8.23
Neath North	10.3	12.0	9.9	9.47
Neath South	7.5	10.3	9.2	9.62

Ward	1991: Total % Welsh speakers Age 3+	2001: Total % Welsh speakers Age 3+	2011: Total % Welsh speakers Age 3+	2021: Total % Welsh speakers Age 3+
<i>Resolven and Tonna*</i>	12.3	12.8	11.53	10.70
Sandfields East	5.5	7.9	7.5	6.55
Sandfields West	5.4	8.7	8.1	7.69

Source: 1991, 2001, 2011 and 2021 census data.

Red cells show where there has been a decline between censuses.

Green cells show where there has been an increase between censuses.

*Ward boundaries and the differences between the 2011 and 2021 ward boundaries are discussed at Appendix 1

To put these percentages into context, table 3.7 shows the number of Welsh speakers by Ward, between 1991, 2001, 2011 and 2021 censuses.

Table 3.7: Number of Welsh speakers by Ward, during 1991, 2001, 2011 and 2021 censuses

Ward	1991: Total Welsh speakers Age 3+	2001: Total Welsh speakers Age 3+	2011: Total Welsh speakers Age 3+	2021: Total Welsh speakers Age 3+
Aberavon	295	404	411	346
Aberdulais	234	304	311	288
Allt-wen	891	807	664	631
Baglan	560	675	557	563
Blaengwrach & Glynneath West / Glynneath Central and East*	1200	1101	976	842
Briton Ferry East	199	290	242	236
Briton Ferry West	126	260	275	261
Bryn and Cwmavon	1,376	1,269	1,024	812
Bryncoch North	402	360	297	260
<i>Bryncoch South / Duffryn *</i>	777	1073	1049	909
Cadoxton	192	248	211	186
<i>Cimla and Pelenna*</i>	722	711	528	484
Coedffranc Central	471	458	425	443
<i>Coedffranc North / Coedffranc West *</i>	523	542	581	764
<i>Crynant, Onllwyn and Seven Sisters* (only part LSA)</i>	1643	1297	1156	939
<i>Cwmllynfell & Ystalyfera *</i>	2987	2369	2008	1553

Ward	1991: Total Welsh speakers Age 3+	2001: Total Welsh speakers Age 3+	2011: Total Welsh speakers Age 3+	2021: Total Welsh speakers Age 3+
<i>Cymer and Glyncoirwg / Gwynfi and Croeserw *</i>	346	454	343	258
Godre'r graig	681	577	473	538
<i>Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen and Lower Brynamman*</i>	3248	2752	2352	1985
<i>Margam & Taibach, Port Talbot*</i>	451	593	649	642
Neath East	346	610	497	487
Neath North	411	463	379	351
Neath South	345	478	440	448
<i>Pontardawe and Trebanos*</i>	2761	2424	2083	1888
<i>Resolven and Tonna*</i>	637	716	633	583
Rhos	744	695	588	544
Sandfields East	329	483	504	425
Sandfields West	364	581	524	506

Source: 1991, 2001, 2011 and 2021 census data.

Light Pink cells indicate where total count of Welsh speaking population is greater than 300, but less than 1499.

Purple cells indicate where total count of Welsh speaking population is greater than 1500.

Dark purple cells indicate where total count of Welsh speaking population is greater than 3000.

*Ward boundaries and the differences between the 2011 and 2021 ward boundaries are discussed at Appendix 1

[Annual Population Survey](#)

Data for the Annual Population Survey (APS) is included within the WLPS. Within this document, the decline in numbers across Wales has been attributed primarily to the decrease in percentage of children and young people (the group most likely to report ability) reported as being able to speak Welsh. In addition, mortality rates, immigration/migration and the subjective nature of language skills all are likely to contribute to the decrease in the number of people identifying as able to speak Welsh.

Contrary to Census data, the APS has historically and continues to indicate figures far above the Census data:

Table 3.8 – APS indicating number of people in Neath Port Talbot that can speak Welsh (data from years ending 31st December for various years other than data for 2024 where data is up to 30th June)

	2011	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total population	134,400	136,100	137,800	136,400	135,400	137,900	138,200	138,800
Can speak Welsh	27,200	30,500	34,600	27,900	31,100	31,400	40,300	38,900
% who can speak Welsh	20.7%	22.4%	25.5%	20.5%	23%	22.8%	29.2%	28.1%

Source: APS, as referred to in the WLSP and Stats Wales for 2023 & 2024

This data shows that whilst the number of people who can speak Welsh has increased from 27,200 in 2011 to 38,900 in 2024, as a % of the total population, it has fluctuated.

Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and Pupil Level Annual School Census

Data from NPTC’s Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) also provides useful information. This data is more consistent with the annual population survey data, and indicates an increase in the numbers enrolled in Welsh medium education (table 3.9).

Table 3.9: PLASC

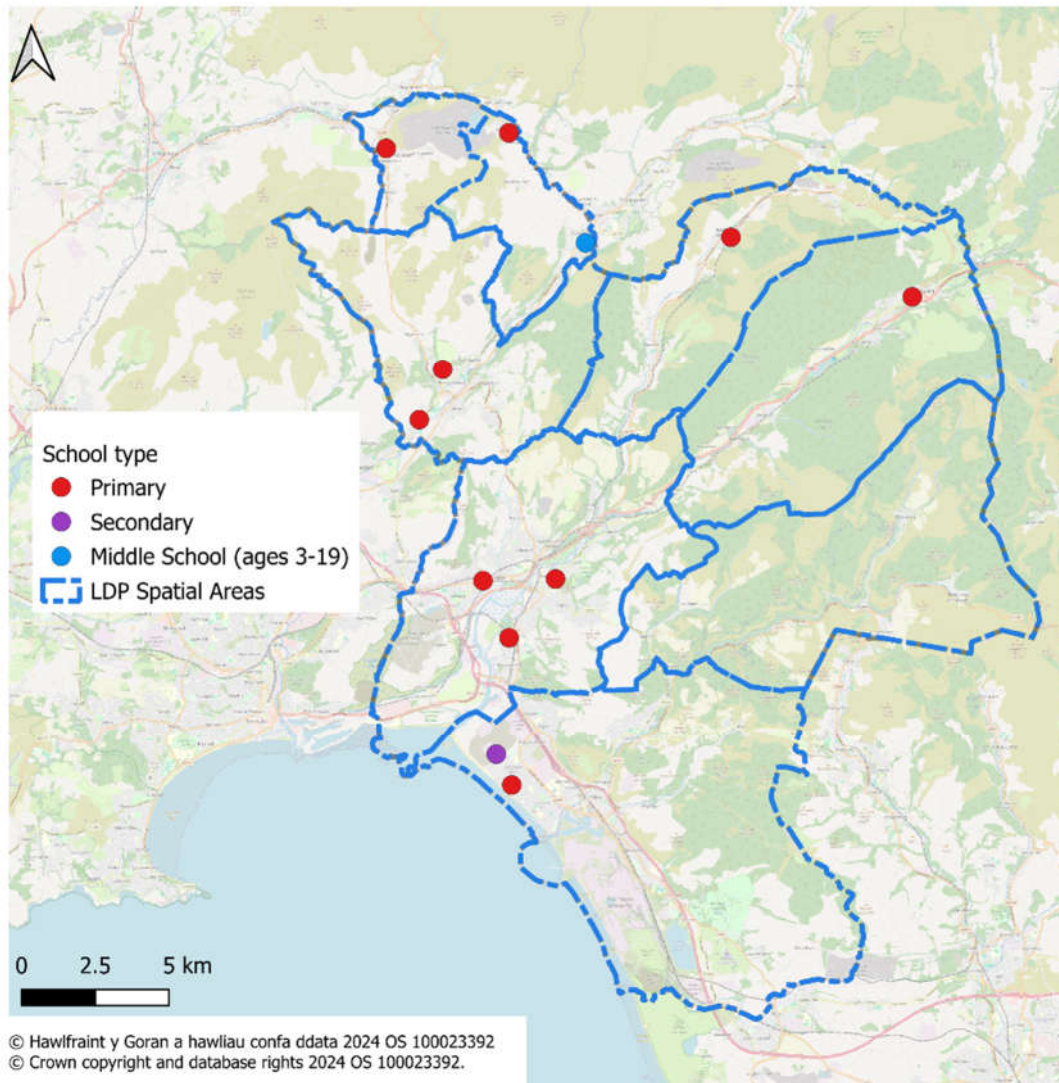
	2011	2021	2023 (projected)
No. in Welsh medium schools	2,993	3,321	3,329
No. in NPT schools	20,399	21,149	20,535
% in Welsh medium schools	14.7%	15.7%	16.2%

Source: PLASC data as referred to in the WLSP

According to the WESP, NPTC has nine Welsh medium primary schools, one Welsh medium middle school (Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Dur) and one Welsh medium secondary school (Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera – Bro Dur). These are shown in figure 3.6 below.

There are plans to introduce a further three Welsh medium primary schools into the County Borough.

Figure 3.6 – Location of Primary and Middle school provisions across NPTC as per the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.



Source: WLSP

Welsh Medium Education Provision

According to the Council's website, the following schools currently offer following Welsh Medium education within the County Borough:

- YGG Blaendulais, Seven Sisters (started in 1880's, opened in 1961)
- YGG Castell-nedd, Neath (opened September 1995)
- YGG Cwm Nedd, Glynneath
- YGG Cwmllynfell, Cwmllynfell (started 1840's)
- YGG Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen, GCG

- YGG Pontardawe, Pontardawe
- YGG Rhosafan, Sandfields (started circa 1987)
- YGG Trebannws, Trebanos (started in 1880's)
- YGG Tregales, Neath Abbey (opened January 2023)
- YGG Tyle'r Ynn, Briton Ferry
- Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera-Bro Dur (Primary and Secondary), Ystalyfera and Port Talbot (Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera founded in 1969, Bro Dur Campus opened in 2018)

According to individual school websites, Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera-Bro Dur provides primary, secondary and sixth form in Ystalyfera and secondary education only at the Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Dur campus in Port Talbot.

As part of the 21st Century Schools and the Strategic School Improvement Programme (SSIP), so far over £123m has been invested in new schools in the County Borough with some already completed and operational and others underway, this programme continues to support Welsh medium education improvements and provision throughout the County Borough.

With regards to the provision post 16 years of age, Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera Bro Dur, Coleg Afan Nedd and St Joseph's Sixth Form Centre also provide a Welsh language education provision in the authority.

There are also numerous learning opportunities for Welsh for adults across the County Borough which are delivered by learnwelsh.cymru through the Learn Welsh Swansea Bay Region, hosted by Swansea Universit.

With regards to Welsh-medium childcare provision across the authority, as of August 2021 there were 12 Welsh-medium childcare establishments. These were noted as:

- Cylch Meithrin Mwy Blaendulais – Blaendulais
- Tiddlywinks Childcare Centre, Ystalyfera
- Cylch Aberafan, Aberavon
- Cylch Brynhyfryd Flying Start Playgroup, Brynhyfryd
- Canolfan Maerdy – Lots of Tots, Tairgwaith
- Meithrinfa Ddydd Ser Bach, Neath
- Cylch Chwarae Castell-Nedd
- Meithrinfa Ddydd y Waun, GCG
- Georgie Porgie's Cylch Tlir Morfa, Sandfields
- Cylch Chwarae Pontardawe
- Cylch Meithrin Cwmnedd, Cwmnedd
- Clwb Plant Tiddlewinks, Ystalyfera

There is a further project to develop welsh medium child-day care provision at Calfaria Welsh Baptist Church. The project involves renovating and converting the

former Chapel in Cwmgwrach into Croeso Day Nursery and is supported by NPTC's Valleys and Villages Prosperity Fund (VVPF) through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. It is due to open in Autumn 2024. (<https://www.wales247.co.uk/former-chapel-brought-back-into-use-in-cwmgwrach>)

4. Welsh Language and the RLDP

Initially, this section considers the performance and implementation of the existing LDP policies according to the plans monitoring framework.

As noted above in Section 2, there are a number of key legislative requirements that give the Welsh language prominence throughout the RLDP process.

In accordance with the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, PCPA 2004 as amended by the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 (section 11), Planning Policy Wales (12th Edition), Future Wales and Technical Advice Note 20, a Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA) is required as part of the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) has been undertaken to assess the likely effects / impacts (if any) that the plan will have on the use of the Welsh Language. The ISA process itself is iterative, with elements from consultations and policy decisions being addressed and amended according to findings. This section will briefly outline the stages and policy questions that are included throughout the RLDP's progress.

Annual Monitoring Report's into the Adopted LDP

Implementation of the strategy and policies within the LDP are monitored through the various Annual Monitoring Reports (AMRs). There have been seven AMRs conducted since the LDP was adopted. Indicator 88 relates to policy WL1 and deals specifically with ensuring that applications over a certain threshold are accompanied by a WLAP. There were some teething problems identified in the 2017 AMR due to the fact that applications were submitted prior to adoption of the LDP, the AMR identified that Officer and / or Member training was needed, and this was carried out. The remaining AMR results for this indicator are summarised below:

- 2018 AMR – Three permissions granted requiring a WLAP. Three WLAP's submitted.
- 2019 AMR – No permissions granted that required a WLAP.
- 2020 AMR – No permissions granted that required a WLAP.
- 2021 AMR– No permissions granted that required a WLAP.
- 2022 AMR – Two permissions granted requiring a WLAP. Two WLAP's submitted.
- 2023 AMR- One permission granted that required a WLAP. One WLAP submitted.

Information from the AMRs indicates that the desired outcomes of the policies and SPG are working effectively.

Additionally, indicator 12 of the AMR was also used to highlight how much had been secured for the Welsh Language through Section 106 planning obligations. In 2017, £20,500 was secured for Samuels Road, Cwyllynfell (P2014/1122) and in 2018, £30,500 was secured for Bryn Brych Farm, Rhos (P2014/0393). Whilst this indicator is no longer reported in the AMR (as the indicator was triggered in 2019), there has been a further scheme where an £11,000 financial contribution towards Welsh language has been secured - Glyndulais Old People's Home, Crynant (P2016/0090), however the relevant condition of the permission has not yet been discharged.

In recognition of TAN 20 WLIA requirements in relation to large scale windfall developments:

- The preparation of a WLAP was conditioned for the Afan Valley Adventure Resort (P2018/0493). A Welsh Language Strategy was prepared and the condition discharged in 2023 (P2023/0455).
- A condition requiring the preparation of a WLIA/Strategy was applied to the Global Centre of Rail Excellence (P2021/0327).

There are 3 further planning applications within Language Sensitive Areas which are awaiting determination (P2013/0737, P2021/0591 and P2022/0726).

ISA Scoping

The ISA Scoping Report includes several objectives ranging from Health and well-being to climate change, housing, and inclusive economic growth. Objective 12 Cultural Heritage notes to 'conserve, protect and enhance the historic environment and cultural assets, including the use of the Welsh language'.

Table 5.4 of the Scoping Report (<https://www.npt.gov.uk/media/19128/npt-isa-scoping-report-updated-september-2023-final-accessible.pdf>) goes into greater detail about the specific assessments that will be undertaken in relation to the Welsh language. Table C.61 of this scoping report details those new proposals of over 100 dwellings, or for 1000sqm or more employment uses will form part of the ISA assessment.

Delivery Agreement

The Delivery Agreement (DA) sets out the timetable for the RLDP production, as well as the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS). The CIS sets out who we will consult, and when we will consult them. Within the DA, specific mention is also made to Welsh language groups and organisations, such as Menter Iaith Castell-Nedd Port Talbot. Full details of Welsh language consultees can be found within the DA.

Informal consultation into Key Issues, Vision, Objectives, Growth and Spatial Options

To inform the development of the RLDP's Preferred Strategy, an informal consultation into the Key Issues, Vision, Objectives, Growth and Spatial Options was undertaken for a period of three weeks between 14th of May until the 5th of June 2024. The consultation document can be found online -

<https://beta.npt.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/replacement-local-development-plan-rldp-2023-2038/evidence-base/>

There were a number of representations made to the informal consultation that specifically referred to the Welsh Language. To summarise, these representation noted:

- There was no clear evidence that Welsh language has been taken into account in the consultation material – e.g. not specifically referenced in the Key issues, Vision and objectives.
- Promotion of the Welsh language and the retention of the community services should also be key.
- That growth areas such as Pontardawe should be promoted.
- That growth facilitates homes and jobs for local people whilst also protecting the Welsh language.

In order to respond to these concerns, the Key Issues, Vision and Objectives have all been amended to specifically mention the promotion and preservation of the Welsh language. Furthermore, information regarding the Welsh language and how this has informed the Growth and Spatial Options for the Preferred Strategy is included within the Growth and Spatial Options Background Paper.

Settlement Assessment and Settlement Hierarchy

The Settlement Assessment is an assessment of the current role and function of all the existing settlements in the county borough and it forms an important part of the information database to inform the Replacement Local Development Plan. It constitutes an appraisal of the overall sustainability of each settlement following a detailed methodology, gathering together information from a variety of sources.

The Welsh language, and proportion of Welsh skills across the different settlements has formed part of the assessment and informed the subsequent settlement hierarchy. The Settlement Assessment Background Paper highlights that information regarding the Welsh language gives an important indication about linguistic character which does not directly form part of the scoring to inform the settlement hierarchy, but it does feed into the development of Welsh language related strategy and policies.

Candidate and Urban Capacity Site Assessment

The Candidate Site Assessment Methodology (November 2023) Appendix A details the site suitability criteria which has been considered in the stage 2 detailed assessment of sites. Para A2. Highlights that other criteria may be taken into consideration as part of the assessment work. The assessment therefore includes the following criteria in relation to Welsh language:

- Whether the site is located within a Welsh Language Sensitive Area

The same assessment criteria have been applied to both Candidate Sites and Urban Capacity Sites.

The results of this assessment will be published at deposit plan stage. The process will enable the identification of where certain measures such as bilingual signage or phasing may be required to ensure that the development of a site allocation promotes and enhances the use of the Welsh language. Further detail on this will be considered to inform the deposit draft plan which will identify all site allocations and detail their constraints etc.

Welsh Language and the Preferred Strategy

Following on from the comments received at the Informal consultation into the Key Issues, Vision, Objectives, Growth and Spatial Options, the RLDP's Key Issues, Vision and Objectives now read as follows:

- **Key Issue - NKI 5 Placemaking in Action:** There has been a perceived loss of natural, cultural and built heritage and character, including use of the **Welsh language**, across NPT's communities, natural environment, townscapes and landscapes coupled with a loss of role and purpose for many valley communities.
- **Vision - (5) The important natural, cultural and built heritage, including the Welsh language, across all NPT's communities is supported, enhanced and enriched through the application of placemaking principles:** The distinctiveness and character of the three main towns of Neath, Port Talbot and Pontardawe, their individual histories, cultures and natural assets will be conserved, sustainably managed and enhanced. The distinctive and separate characters of each of NPT's five valleys will be conserved and enhanced through support and enhancement of their key settlements and distinctive environments.
- **Objective - NO5: Support, enhance and enrich the distinctiveness of NPT's communities, including use of the Welsh language, through positive placemaking actions at a local level.**

Through the ISA (WLIA) process the Welsh language has also informed the preparation and consideration of the growth and spatial options, the preferred level

of growth, the spatial distribution of growth and the definition of a sustainable settlement hierarchy as set out in the Preferred Strategy. Further information on this is provided in the subsection below.

Following on from the amendments identified above, the Welsh language also forms part of two Strategic policies in the RLDP Preferred Strategy; namely **SP1 Strategic Placemaking**, and **SP5 Placemaking in Action**, the relevant elements of which are set out below:

SP1 Strategic Placemaking

Development proposals will be required to make a positive contribution to sustainable places. The sustainability of communities will be enhanced, the benefits of the green growth economy distributed, and the natural environment safeguarded through the implementation of the RLDP growth and spatial strategies. This will be achieved by:

9. The designation and protection of Green Wedges; Promoting and protecting our built and natural heritage, distinctive qualities and character of existing places, culture, and the Welsh language.

SP5 Placemaking in Action

Placemaking seeks to ensure an appropriate mix of uses to support the creation of vibrant and sustainable communities.

Development proposals must demonstrate how they:

5. Protect and promote the Welsh language and linguistic heritage;

These two policies, alongside the amended Key Issues, Vision and Objectives noted above, firmly embed the Welsh language as an integral part of the RLDP and ensure its consistency with national planning policy. This strategic policy approach recognises that Welsh language is not a stand alone issue as it is encompassed within the Welsh culture and heritage theme identified within PPW and is part of the wider place-making principles. The approach emphasizes the Council's commitment towards helping to meeting the Welsh Government's target of a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

Furthermore, the cultural importance of the Welsh Language to many of our communities is, and will continue to be recognised through the designation of language sensitive areas (LSAs). It is important to note that although not specifically referenced in Strategic policy, it is not the Council's intention to remove the LSA designations. This will be fully assessed and considered in the development of the Deposit RLDP alongside the development of specific Development Management policies.

The preferred strategy identifies 9 **Key Sites**. One of these Key Sites is within the existing Pontardawe LSA set out in the adopted LDP is Land East of Rhos. This is recognised in Chapter 9 of the preferred strategy where details on key sites constraints and place-making principles are identified.

Welsh medium primary school provision is also identified for two key sites including Coed Hirwaun in the East of the County Borough, and Land East of Rhos in the West of the County Borough.

Further details on these key sites will be provided in the form of masterplans which will be prepared alongside the deposit plan in accordance with the DPM.

ISA & WLIA of the Preferred Strategy

The ISA (including WLIA which is contained in Appendix H of the ISA) into the RLDP Preferred Strategy has assessed its impact on the Welsh language. The assessment has considered the impact of the following elements of the plan:

- The Key Issues, Vision and Objectives;
- The 7 growth options;
- The 6 spatial options;
- The Strategic policies;

All Candidate Sites (from which key sites have been identified) have also been assessed to consider their effect on the Welsh Language depending on whether the proposal is for more or less than 100 residential units or for employment uses over 1000sqm within a Language sensitive area.

More detailed information is contained within the ISA report itself. This document is also available for consultation at the same time as the Preferred Strategy.

Stakeholder Engagement

The Council has undertaken widespread stakeholder engagement during the development of the preferred strategy where relevant welsh language stakeholders identified in the DA have been involved. This engagement has included:

- Candidate Sites Register (following the 1st call for sites) community feedback.
- Key Issues, Vision and Objectives targeted email consultation.
- Key issues, vision objectives, growth and spatial options informal consultation.
- Regular meetings with the Education service and WESP representatives.
- Correspondence with the Welsh Language Commissioner.
- The establishment of a Welsh Language Technical Working Group.

Education Strategic Planning and links with the LDP

As explained in the WESP, regular meetings are held to share information and consider future pressures on school places, including those brought about by approved housing developments, and to develop the appropriate responses to these pressures. Information on approved housing developments and information on sites allocated within the LDP will be considered along with pupil population forecasts to predict the likely impact of population changes at a local and authority-wide level. Due consideration will be given to the demand for Welsh-medium education, and its planned growth. The WESP co-ordinator along with the Strategic School Improvement programme team have been included in developing the RLDP.

Welsh Language Technical Working Group

A Technical Working Group (TWG) into the Welsh language was set up in October 2024, and met virtually on October 21/10/2024.

The TWG attendees were given a brief outline of the steps undertaken to get to the Preferred Strategy. This included a highlight of the findings contained in section 3 of this topic paper, and attendees were asked for their input into the methodology for developing Welsh language further in the Deposit RLDP.

In summary, the key points raised were:

- Not to look at just 1 census year. If an area has just dropped to below 25%, this should not stop the area being determined as being an LSA in the RLDP, as the change can be reversed;
- This needs to be a council-wide policy and strategy to bring forward changes successfully- it's not just up to the RLDP but combined with other departments such as Education and Corporate Services;
- There might be a benefit in extending the LSA to ensure that Welsh speaking strongholds are not left isolated. The RLDP should consider incorporating a WLAP authority wide strategy;
- Looking at the census data for age groups would help try and pinpoint or at least plan for the future (although 2021 data is not yet available by ward for age categories);
- Data should be obtained for how many houses in each settlement have occurred in between censuses and since the LDP adoption in 2016 to help compile a more composite picture of housing growth / Welsh language decline;
- Not to plan for too many houses as this dilutes Welsh language; and
- Be careful not to create 'island' communities (e.g. Crynant) that are surrounded by predominantly non-Welsh speaking communities.

These are all considerations that will be taken forward in developing this Topic Paper for the Deposit RLDP. The TWG will meet again in Spring / Summer 2025 to discuss

the findings of the Preferred Strategy consultation, and to be informed of the additional evidence that has been gathered.

5. Next Steps

Following on from the public consultation into the Preferred Strategy, all comments relating to the Welsh language will be collated and analysed.

This topic paper will be updated to further assess linguistic sensitivity and vitality across the County Borough. This could include additional research (subject to data availability), such as:

- Welsh speaking 2021 census data by ward and age category to better understand the changing demographic profile of Welsh speakers.
- The change in dwelling numbers and the impact this is having on the Welsh language and Welsh speaking communities.
- Analysis of when Welsh medium schools opened and their potential impact on levels of Welsh speaking in their local and feeder communities.
- Further review LDP Policy and SPG implementation to understand the effectiveness of WLAP implementation including if and how any Welsh language contributions secured have been spent.

It will also review the existing LSA designations and justify any amendments to the approach (if needed) in the Deposit plan. Further work will be undertaken to assess the existing LDP policy and Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) and whether it continues to be fit for purpose in light of more recent evidence. This will include the formulation of detailed development management policy.

As well as the above, the Commission for Welsh-speaking Communities (part of Welsh Government) recently published report titled 'Empowering communities, strengthening the Welsh language' will be closely considered. As noted in section 2, the report highlights a number of key recommendations. One of them is for the Welsh Government to designate 'areas of higher density linguistic significance' in Wales. Assessing the methodology that is used would provide a good insight into how the RLDP Welsh language policy could be formed. A further report is expected in December 2024, the recommendations of which will also be a key consideration for this topic moving forward.

As mentioned in Section 4, another WLTWG meeting will be held to discuss findings of further work, the RLDPs proposed approach towards the Welsh language and potential Development Management policies moving forward.

This Welsh language topic paper will be updated with the findings of the additional work and will be published again when the RLDP Deposit Plan is out for consultation.

Appendix 1: Ward boundary changes during 2011-2021

Between the 2011 and 2021 censuses, ward boundaries within NPT changed and this affected 10 wards across the authority. In total, the 42 wards were reduced to 34. This means that when comparing the 2021 census data against previous ones (note no ward boundary changes occurred between 1991 and 2011), it is not possible to easily compare the data for individual wards. Consequently, it is necessary to try and find a reasonable alternative so that data comparisons can be undertaken. This appendix seeks to identify the main issues within each spatial area, highlight which wards are affected, and how they will be affected.

Please note that this issue only arises when comparisons against the 1991, 2001, and 2011 census are used with the revised 2021 census data.

The following tables show and explain these ward changes. For ease of reference, these wards are set out by LDP Strategy Area.

Amman Valley

2011 wards	2021 wards
Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen	Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen and Lower Brynamman
Lower Brynaman	

The ward boundary changes means that Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen and Lower Brynamman were joined. This means that data from the earlier censuses will be added together when being assessed against the 2021 census.

APPROACH: - Join Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen and Lower Brynaman for overall comparative figures.

Pontardawe

2011 wards	2021 wards
Allt-wen	Allt-wen
Pontardawe	Pontardawe*
Rhos	Rhos
Trebanos	Trebanos*

Whilst there are no evident changes to the wards within Pontardawe spatial area, the actual boundary between Trebanos and Pontardawe wards has changed. In order for

the ward information to remain constant, these two wards will be joined moving forward.

APPROACH: - Join Pontardawe and Trebanos for overall comparative figures.

Swansea Valley

2011 wards	2021 wards
Cwmllynfell	Cwmllynfell & Ystalyfera
Godre'r Graig	Godre'r Graig
Ystalyfera	

Within Swansea Valley, Ystalyfera ward is joined with Cwmllynfell to form Cwmllynfell and Ystalyfera ward. This means that data from the earlier censuses will be added together when being assessed against the 2021 census.

APPROACH: - Join Cwmllynfell and Ystalyfera for overall comparative figures.

Dulais Valley

2011 wards	2021 wards
Seven Sisters	Crynant, Onllwyn and Seven Sisters
Crynant	
Onllwyn	

The ward changes mean that Seven Sisters, Crynant and Onllwyn 2011 wards are now combined into one 2021 ward. This means that data from the earlier censuses will be added together when being assessed against the 2021 census.

APPROACH: - Join Seven Sisters, Crynant and Onllwyn for overall comparative figures.

Neath Valley

2011 wards	2021 wards
Blaengwrach	Blaengwrach and Glynneath West
Glynneath	Glynneath Central and East
Resolven	Resolven and Tonna*

Ward changes here have meant that the boundaries around Blaengwrach and Glynneath have changed, however when combined together, they encompass the same overarching boundary for both wards used in 2011. This means that the data from the earlier censuses can be added together when assessed against the 2011 census.

For Resolven, the 2021 ward boundary changes added the 2011 ward of Tonna to it. Tonna, for LDP purposes, is located within the Neath Spatial Area. For consistency purposes, Resolven and Tonna will now be within the Neath Valley.

APPROACH: - Join Blaengwrach and Glynneath West, to Glynneath Central and East for overall comparative figures.

Neath

2011 wards	2021 wards
Aberdulais	Aberdulais
Briton Ferry East	Briton Ferry East
Briton Ferry West	Briton Ferry West
Bryncoch North	Bryncoch North
Bryncoch South	Bryncoch South
Cadoxton	Cadoxton
Cimla	Cimla & Pelenna*
Coedffranc Central	Coedffranc Central
Coedffranc North	Coedffranc North
Coedffranc West	Coedffranc West
Dyffryn	Dyffryn
Neath East	Neath East
Neath North	Neath North
Neath South	Neath South
Tonna	

There are a number of ward boundary changes that have occurred between 2011 and 2021 within the Neath Spatial Area. Cimla is now joined with Pelenna (moving Pelenna to this Neath spatial area), and Tonna has been joined with Resolven and is now within the Neath Valley Spatial Area.

There are boundary changes between Coedffranc West and Coedffranc North, as well as between Duffryn and Bryncoch South. For consistency purposes, the wards of Coedffranc West and Coedfranc North should be joined when comparing censuses, as well as Duffryn and Bryncoch South wards.

APPROACH: - Join Coedffranc West and Coedffranc North together for an overall comparative figure.

Join Bryncoch South and Dyffryn together for an overall comparative figure.

Tonna to join Resolven within the Neath Valley Spatial Area.

Afan Valley

2011 wards	2021 wards
Cymer	Cymer and Glyncorrwg
Glyncorrwg	
Gwynfi	Gwynfi and Croeserw*
Pelenna	

The ward changes mean that Cymer and Glyncorrwg 2011 wards are now combined into one 2021 ward.

However, there has also been ward boundary changes that means that Croeserw is now within Gwynfi and not Cymer. In order to ensure that any potential issues are overcome from these changes, it is necessary to combine the data for Cymer / Glyncorrwg wards with Gwynfi and Croeserw. This means that data from the earlier censuses will be added together when being assessed against the 2021 census.

As mentioned previously, Pelenna has been joined with Cimla, and has therefore been moved into the Neath Spatial Area.

APPROACH: Join Cymer, Glyncorrwg, Gwynfi / Croeserw ward data.

Move Pelenna (as it is now Cimla and Pelenna) into the Neath Spatial Area.

Port Talbot

2011 wards	2021 wards
Aberavon	Aberavon
Baglan	Baglan
Bryn and Cwmavon	Bryn and Cwmavon
Margam	Margam and Taibach*
Port Talbot	Port Talbot
Sandfields East	Sandfields East
Sandfields West	Sandfields West
Taibach	

The main changes within the Port Talbot spatial area is that the wards of Margam and Taibach are now merged. There has also been a small boundary change between to Port Talbot ward, and Bryn and Cwmafan ward – which has lead to a recreation ground changing wards. This is not deemed significant and no changes are proposed to the data within these two wards. However, there is a minor tweak also made between Port Talbot and Margam and Taibach ward. Given that this could include residential properties, it is prudent to join the two (previously three) wards together so that data is comparable.

APPROACH: Join Margam, Taibach and Port Talbot ward data.

Appendix 2: Census information

As mentioned in Appendix 1, there are numerous changes that have needed to be made to compare data across wards. The cell / text colour indicates the type of change. A summary of which is provided below.

Cell / Text colour	Description
	Cell data superseded due to changes in boundary definitions. Data can only be used for 2021 analysis where available
	Internal ward boundary changes between 2011 and 2021 means data has been combined across the years to get comparative picture.
	Wards combined due to 2021 ward boundary changes.
Red	Ward boundary name changed in 2021.
Blue	Boundary changes to wards however ward name not changed, so data combined for comparison

	1991 Total Residents 3+	1991 Total Residents 3+ Welsh Speakers	1991 Total % Welsh speakers	2001 Total Residents 3+	2001 Total Residents 3+ Welsh Speakers	2001 Total % Welsh speakers	2011 Total Residents 3+	2011 Total Residents 3+ Welsh Speakers	2011 Total % Welsh speakers	2021 Total Residents 3+	2021 Total Residents 3+ Welsh Speakers	2021 Total % Welsh speakers
Aberavon	5748	295	5.1	5,336	404	7.6	5,232	411	7.9	5501	346	6.29
Aberdulais	1965	234	11.9	1,940	304	15.7	2,305	311	13.5	2316	288	12.44
Allt-wen	2223	891	40.1	2,319	807	34.8	2,251	664	29.5	2,627	631	24.02
Baglan	6827	560	8.2	6,653	675	10.1	6,627	557	8.4	6575	563	8.56
Blaengwrach & Glynneath West	2039	307	15.1	1,986	301	15.2	1,935	287	14.8	3061	377	12.32
Glynneath Central and East	3676	893	24.3	3,531	800	22.7	3,320	689	20.8	2095	465	22.20
Blaengwrach & Glynneath West / Glynneath Central and East	5715	1200	21.0	5517	1101	20.0	5255	976	18.6	5156	842	16.3
Briton Ferry East	2993	199	6.6	2,896	290	10.0	2,827	242	8.6	2845	236	8.30
Briton Ferry West	3041	126	4.1	2,865	260	9.1	2,896	275	9.5	2805	261	9.30
Bryn and Cwmavon	6031	1,376	22.8	6,515	1,269	19.5	6,330	1,024	16.2	6379	812	12.73
Bryncoch North	2417	402	16.6	2,277	360	15.8	2,139	297	13.9	2005	260	12.97
Bryncoch South	3478	439	12.6	5,275	716	13.6	5,706	699	12.3	5278	586	11.10
Dyffryn	2937	338	11.5	3,185	357	11.2	3,078	350	11.4	3216	323	10.04
Bryncoch South & Duffryn	6415	777	12.1	8460	1073	12.7	8784	1049	11.9	8494	909	10.7
Cadoxton	1382	192	13.9	1,619	248	15.3	1,647	211	12.8	1554	186	11.97
Pelenna	1271	342	26.9	1,174	250	21.3	1,113	178	16.0			
Cimla	4255	380	8.9	4,171	461	11.1	3,835	350	9.1			
Cimla and Pelenna	5526	722	13.07	5345	711	13.30	4948	528	10.67	4745	484	10.20
Coedffranc Central	3910	471	12.0	3,892	458	11.8	3,870	425	11.0	4998	443	8.86
Coedffranc North	2251	273	12.1	2,348	300	12.8	2,322	265	11.4	2243	221	9.85
Coedffranc West	1996	250	12.5	2,063	242	11.7	2,563	316	12.3	5101	543	10.64

	1991 Total Residents 3+	1991 Total Residents 3+ Welsh Speakers	1991 Total % Welsh speakers	2001 Total Residents 3+	2001 Total Residents 3+ Welsh Speakers	2001 Total % Welsh speakers	2011 Total Residents 3+	2011 Total Residents 3+ Welsh Speakers	2011 Total % Welsh speakers	2021 Total Residents 3+	2021 Total Residents 3+ Welsh Speakers	2021 Total % Welsh speakers
<i>Coedffranc North & Coedffranc West</i>	4247	523	12.3	4411	542	12.3	4885	581	11.9	7344	764	10.4
Crynant	2045	694	33.9	1,882	547	29.1	1,851	465	25.1			
Onllwyn	1270	328	25.8	1,214	248	20.4	1,161	222	19.1			
Seven Sisters	2248	621	27.6	2,031	502	24.7	2,049	469	22.9			
<i>Crynant, Onllwyn and Seven Sisters</i>	5563	1643	29.53	5127	1297	25.30	5061	1156	22.84	4996	939	18.80
Cwmllynfell	1140	877	76.9	1,124	747	66.5	1,137	669	58.8			
Ystalyfera	3165	2,110	66.7	3,063	1,622	53.0	2,911	1,339	46.0			
<i>Cwmllynfell & Ystalyfera</i>	4305	2987	69.38	4187	2369	56.58	4048	2008	49.60	3785	1553	41.03
Cymmer	3185	163	5.1	2,883	231	8.0	2,714	186	6.9			
Glyncorrwg	1237	75	6.1	1,168	104	8.9	1,054	65	6.2			
<i>Cymer and Glyncorrwg</i>	4422	238	5.38	4051	335	8.27	3768	251	6.66	2085	124	5.95
<i>Gwynfi and Croeserw</i>	1656	108	6.5	1,496	119	8.0	1,314	92	7.0	2517	134	5.32
<i>Cymer and Glyncorrwg, Gwynfi and Croeserw</i>	6078	346	5.7	5547	454	8.2	5082	343	6.7	4602	258	5.6
Godre'r graig	1472	681	46.3	1,429	577	40.4	1,571	473	30.1	1990	538	27.04
Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen	2786	2,204	79.1	2,825	1,881	66.6	2,823	1,576	55.8			
Lower Brynamman	1363	1,044	76.6	1,309	871	66.5	1,277	776	60.8			
<i>Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen and Lower Brynamman</i>	4149	3248	78.28	4134	2752	66.57	4100	2352	57.37	4081	1985	48.64
Margam	1643	139	8.5	2,391	253	10.6	2,908	295	10.1			
Taibach	4711	312	6.6	4,583	340	7.4	4,634	354	7.6			
<i>Margam & Taibach</i>	6354	451	7.10	6974	593	8.50	7542	649	8.61	7620	642	8.43
Port Talbot	5390	501	9.3	5,278	537	10.2	5,457	518	9.5	5579	485	8.69
<i>Margam & Taibach, Port Talbot</i>	11744	952	8.1	12252	1130	9.2	12999	1167	9.0	13199	1127	8.5
Neath East	5936	346	5.8	5,930	610	10.3	6,137	497	8.1	5915	487	8.23
Neath North	3996	411	10.3	3,848	463	12.0	3,838	379	9.9	3705	351	9.47
Neath South	4608	345	7.5	4,650	478	10.3	4,789	440	9.2	4657	448	9.62
<i>Pontardawe</i>	4963	2,093	42.2	5,043	1,841	36.5	5,232	1,624	31.0	5331	1380	25.89
<i>Trebanos</i>	1415	668	47.2	1,398	583	41.7	1,367	459	33.6	1664	508	30.53
<i>Pontardawe and Trebanos</i>	6378	2761	43.3	6441	2424	37.6	6599	2083	31.6	6995	1888	27.0
Resolven	3231	400	12.4	3,127	387	12.4	3,044	341	11.2			
Tonna	2066	237	11.5	2,465	329	13.3	2,445	292	11.9			
<i>Resolven and Tonna</i>	5297	637	12.03	5592	716	12.80	5489	633	11.53	5450	583	10.70
Rhos	2371	744	31.4	2,487	695	27.9	2,382	588	24.7	2515	544	21.63
Sandfields East	5996	329	5.5	6,119	483	7.9	6,692	504	7.5	6487	425	6.55
Sandfields West	6761	364	5.4	6,665	581	8.7	6,495	524	8.1	6583	506	7.69

Click on the QR code below
for further information



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council