

# Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities Cornish National Minority Action Plan

## Introduction

This Action Plan has been compiled by the Working Group established by Cornwall Council's Constitution and Governance Committee to address the provisions of the Framework Convention (hereafter referred to as FCPNM Action Plan). The FCPNM Action Plan is structured according to the Articles in the Framework Convention. It takes an overview of how the Framework Convention can be enacted across the Council and partners and stakeholders across Cornwall and the state party (e.g. the UK Government and UK-wide organisations).

## Background

The Cornish are a recognised national minority under the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. This status was extended to the Cornish in summer 2014 after extensive campaign over a long number of years by many committed individuals and organisations, supported by Cornwall Council and the former County Council. It follows the recognition of the Cornish language in 2002 under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

Cornwall Council recognizes anyone as Cornish who self-identifies as Cornish. In the 2011 National Census, 73,200 (or 14% of the population in Cornwall) identified Cornish as their national identity. In 2014, 48% of school children self-identified as Cornish in the Pupil Level Annual Schools Census. The Council also recognises that the Cornish language is a unique cultural asset which underpins the distinctiveness of Cornwall and has an important part to play in the cultural, economic and social life of the region. The language is protected under the European Charter for the Regional or Minority Languages.

## Important notes

- The FCPNM Action Plan will be updated on an on-going basis to capture actions and what is happening in Cornwall Council, and partner organisations.
- Only recent activity is noted in the Action Plan. Please see the Articles Assessment 2015 for previous activity under these areas.
- There are synergies between the FCPNM Action Plan and the Cornwall Council Cornish Language Plan. Where there are common actions identified it is clearly stated which Action Plan the action will be delivered under. The Cornish Language Strategy sets out Cornwall Council's long term ambitions for the Cornish language.
- Each of the Actions in the Plan has been provided with a rating (Red, Amber, Green). This is to indicate the status of the Action according to progress. For instance, if the Working Group considers good progress is being made against the Action then the RAG rating is Green. If there are significant risks or barriers then the rating is Red. Amber is considered the middle-ground.

## Contents

- 1.0 Understanding community priorities
- 2.0 Developing a co-ordinated approach within Cornwall Council with regards to Cornish Minority Status
- 3.0 Communications
- 4.0 Governance
- 5.0 Supporting Cornish language, culture and heritage
- 6.0 Improving education in schools on Cornish language, culture and history
- 7.0 Increasing the monitoring of Cornish identity

### 1.0 Understanding community priorities

To identify the priorities of the Cornish and better understand their needs

Link to FCPNM Articles 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15

Actions	Status	RAG
1.1 Developing an Evidence Base to identify key priorities	<p>Note: The development of an Evidence Base is to gather data on socio-economic, as well as, language priorities.</p> <p>Risk: Restricted by resources – the Government’s decision not to fund the Cornish language restricts the ability to recruit an officer dedicated to taking this work forward. We are exploring the possibility of an analyst from Cornwall Council working with the as the Institute of Cornish Studies (at the University of Exeter campus at Penryn Campus) as a ‘Knowledge Exchange Fellow’.</p> <p>Item linked to improving the monitoring of the Cornish (item 7.0).</p>	R
1.2 Consulting community groups on their priorities in relation to Cornish Minority Status	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>Recent activity: Gorsedh Bards on the Member’s Working Group. Engagement with groups via the Equality and Diversity Team and the Cornish Language Forum. Cornwall Council is currently working with partners to set the Cornwall Wide Equality Objectives 2016. Cornish Status runs throughout all the objectives identified but there is also a specific priority objective for Cornish Status. A Task and Finish Group has been set up to identify specific actions for the objectives. NB: the FCPNM Action Plan will feed into the plan being developed by the Cornwall Wide Equality Objective Task and Finish Group.</p>	A

	Marked Amber due to the lack of a dedicated resource in the Council to undertake this work.	
1.3 Introduction of Cornish specific questions in the Residents Survey	Residents Survey undertaken in June 2016. It is now closed and the results being analysed.  For Cornish specific questions in partners/stakeholders monitoring, see further below (section on monitoring)	G
1.4 Ongoing engagement with groups on the Equality and Diversity agenda. Promoting equality and diversity.	Ongoing.  Equality and Diversity Team recent activities: St Piran's Day displays with several Cornish groups (March 2016), working with the Equality Advisory Support Service (support for victims of discrimination), Voluntary and Community Sector Equality and Diversity Group (22 April 2016), We Say No to Hate Campaign activities.  Cornwall Wide Equality Objective Setting Event (March 2016)  The Council conducts Comprehensive Impact Assessment (CIA) whenever the Council develops/amends policies or projects/programmes of work. The CIA has been reviewed and amended to reflect that the Cornish are now included as a national minority under the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (April 2016).	G
1.5 Ongoing engagement with cultural and language groups via the Cornish Language Forum on language issues	This is an action addressed in the Cornish Language Plan (Section 3.1).  Risk: DCLG funding removed (April 2016).  Next steps: Challenge the Government about their obligations under the Framework Convention.	R
1.6 Community level engagement in the inclusion of Cornish in activities, plans and projects	This is an action addressed in the Cornish Language Plan (Section 3.3).  Risk: DCLG funding removed (April 2016).	R

	Next steps: Challenge the Government about their obligations under the Framework Convention.	
--	--	--

## 2.0 Developing a co-ordinated approach within Cornwall Council with regards to Cornish Minority Status

To establish a strategic direction

Link to FCPNM Articles 3, 5, 6

Action	Status	RAG
2.1 Alignment of the draft FCPNM Action Plan with the Cornish Language Plan	Ongoing.  Lead officer for language plan sits on the Cornish Minority Working Group.	G
2.2 Identification of resources to support and manage the FCPNM work	Risk: Letter received from DCLG (April 2016) stating all language funding removed. This has implications for the funding of FCPNM work.  Next steps: Challenge the Government about their obligations under the Framework Convention.	R

## 3.0 Communications

To increase engagement with, and understanding of, Cornish Minority Status among CC staff, local partners, and state-party organisations

Link to FCPNM Articles 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

Action	Status	RAG
3.1 Raise awareness of the Framework Convention and explain what it actually means to all parts of society	Ongoing. Challenges to overcome.  Recent activity: Equality and Diversity team raising awareness with South West Councils via SW Equality networks (June 2016)  There is a need to investigate the training need of Members, Officers and staff of other organisations.	A
3.2 Engage with other organisations to make them aware of their responsibilities within the Framework Convention and	Ongoing. Challenges to overcome.  Recent activity: Arts Council engaged via the Gosedh conference 2015 on their	

capture details of their activities.	strategy development. Equality and diversity team explained FCPNM to Heritage Lottery Fund. Corporate responses to public consultations (e.g. ONS, Census, BBC Charter Review, Countries of Culture).  Also see items 5.2 and 7.1 below	A
3.3 Celebrate the success of the progress which is being made both within and outside Cornwall in protecting the rights of the Cornish and promoting equality and diversity.	Ongoing. Challenges to overcome.  Recent press-releases: Celebrating success (e.g. K call-sign for radio amateurs in Cornwall in 2016), challenging government on withdrawal of Cornish language (April 2016)  See equality and diversity in item 1.4.	A
3.4 Capture details of Cornwall Council activities and promote awareness of them.	Ongoing. Challenges to overcome.  This Action Plan gathers information. Cornish Minority Working Group webpage on CC internet.	A

#### 4.0 Governance

Link to FCPNM Articles 15, 16

Action	Status	RAG
4.1 To lobby UK Government to maintain the integrity of Cornwall's border.	Ongoing.  Recent activity: A motion was passed by the Constitution and Governance Committee to oppose Devonwall (12 May 2016). On 17 May, Full Council overwhelmingly supported a motion which urges the Government to take all necessary steps to amend the Act prior to the completion of the parliamentary constituency review on or before 1 October 2018, to specifically protect the parliamentary constituencies of Cornwall so that they all remain fully within the boundary of Cornwall. For more information see: <a href="https://democracy.cornwall.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=584&amp;MIId=6862&amp;Ver=4">https://democracy.cornwall.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=584&amp;MIId=6862&amp;Ver=4</a>  Opportunity: Boundary Commission expected to publish consultation on initial set of proposed boundary changes in Autumn 2016. Review will be completed by	A

	September 2018.	
4.2 To lobby UK Government on the developing of Case for Cornwall ambitions and the development of Devo2.	<p>With delivery arrangements in place for the first devolution deal, activity is underway to develop Cornwall's further ambitions for devolution.</p> <p>Council resolved (Full Council 26 April 2016) to call upon the administration to ensure that the freedom to celebrate St Piran's Day as a public holiday is one of the new powers negotiated as part of the second stage of the 'Case for Cornwall' package.</p>	G

## 5.0 Supporting Cornish language, culture and heritage

(To build upon the work of the Economy & Culture Service with a specific view on Cornish Minority Status)

Link to FCPNM Articles 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 14, 18

Action	Status	RAG
5.1 Heritage Board and Forum (Part of Cornwall Devolution Deal)	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>Board Members identified and invited to initial meeting in April 2016. Heritage Forum to be convened for early May. Distinctiveness Study to commence in early May.</p>	G
5.2 To lobby UK Government and state-party organisations on the Cornish right of access to the media in their own language	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>Recent actions: Despite lobbying by the Working Group there seems little prospect of provision for the Cornish in the media and this is a significant barrier. The Working Group responded to the Government's consultation on BBC Charter Review requesting the introduction of Cornish language programme services (submitted October 2015). The government have published the White Paper on the future of the BBC (April 2016) in which they do not address the concerns highlighted in the submission. A formal response from John Pollard has highlighted this and requested that factual errors within the White Paper be corrected – namely the exclusion of the Cornish language from among the minority languages receiving support (June 2016). No response has been received.</p> <p>The Council is liaising with partners who are campaigning for a Cornish BBC channel.</p>	R
5.3 To continue to work with central government to fulfil UK responsibilities	Ongoing.	

<p>under the Charter and the FCNM in respect of the Cornish Language</p>	<p>Following the removal of DCLG funding (April 2016), a parliamentary petition has been set up and government has been lobbied. Despite lobbying, the government has not confirmed who will negotiate with the Council on this point.</p> <p>Working with central government is also addressed in the Cornish Language Plan (Section 3.1).</p>	<p>R</p>
<p>5.4 To support the coordination and implementation of the Cornish Language Plan, which sets out how Cornwall Council will promote and support the Cornish language</p>	<p>The Cornish Language Plan has been agreed by Full Council.</p> <p>Risk: DCLG funding removed (April 2016).</p> <p>Next steps: Challenge the Government about their obligations under the Framework Convention.</p>	<p>A</p>
<p>5.5 To support the promotion of the Cornish Language Strategy and the production of an annual work programme of projects to promote and support use of the Cornish language</p>	<p>This is an action addressed in the Cornish Language Plan (Section 3.1).</p> <p>Risk: DCLG funding removed (April 2016).</p> <p>Next steps: Challenge the Government about their obligations under the Framework Convention.</p>	<p>R</p>

## 6.0 Improving education in schools on Cornish language, culture and history

(To address barriers within the education system)

Link to FCPNM Articles 12, 13

Action	Status	RAG
<p>6.1 Identify and tackle barriers for the incorporation of Cornish culture and history in the curriculum</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>Recent activity: Equality and Diversity Team raising awareness of Cornish at the School Governor's conference (March 2016). Education and Cornish identity highlighted to the Council of Europe during their visit to inform their Opinion report to Government (9 March 2016). Equality and diversity team provided advice and guidance to the Cornish Wrestling Association to access funding to put sessions on in schools (spring 2016).</p>	<p>A</p>

	<p>Risk: Cornwall Council disagrees with Government plans to force all schools to become academies (Full Council 26 April 2016).</p>	
6.2 Language learning in schools	<p>This is an action addressed in the Cornish Language Plan (Section 3.3) – to develop Cornish in the school curriculum and provide Cornish as a modern language subject in interested schools.</p> <p>Risk: DCLG funding removed (April 2016) – this would provide teacher training, resources and support to enable teaching in classes.</p> <p>Next steps: Challenge the Government about their obligations under the Framework Convention.</p>	R
6.3 Language learning in adult education	<p>This is an action addressed in the Cornish Language Plan (Section 3.3) – to develop the range of opportunities to learn Cornish.</p> <p>Risk: DCLG funding removed (April 2016) which would have enabled development of teaching resources and teacher training.</p> <p>Next steps: Challenge the Government about their obligations under the Framework Convention.</p>	R
6.4 Development of formally recognised exams	<p>This is an action addressed in the Cornish Language Plan (Section 3.3) – to work with the Welsh examination board, WJEC, to develop a recognised Cornish language exam.</p> <p>Risk: WJEC requires endorsement from the LEA.</p> <p>Next steps: Cornwall Council to develop administration system for WJEC exams in Cornish and to develop teaching resources with the Association of Cornish Language Teachers with a view to first entrants taking the exam in 2017.</p>	A

## 7.0 Increasing the monitoring of Cornish identity

(To improve monitoring of Cornish identity and to increase recognition of Cornish identity in organisations in Cornwall and UK-wide)



<b>Actions</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>RAG</b>
<p>7.1 Lobbying of government departments, state-party funding bodies, public sector bodies and local partners to increase the monitoring of Cornish identity</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>Recent activity: Cornish identity included in the evaluation of participants of ESF projects (March 2016). Cornish recognised by the Royal Institute of British Architects (Oct 2015). CC Equality and Diversity Team shares monitoring forms with groups such as Voluntary Community Sector Equality and Diversity Group (March 2016). RCHT have amended their monitoring forms following lobbying by the CC Equality and Diversity Team.</p> <p>Risk: the Council responded to the Government’s consultation on the 2021 Census by requesting that the Office of National Statistics include separate tick boxes for Cornish within the ‘ethnicity’ and ‘language’ sections. Responses from ONS indicate that they will continue with a write-in option. The Working Group believe it is inconsistent for ONS to recognise the Cornish as a national minority but to conclude no action is necessary.</p> <p>This section has been RAG-rated Red due to the reticence of government and government departments to monitor the Cornish and Cornish language.</p>	<p>R</p>