

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 22nd DECEMBER 2016

Welsh in Education Strategic Plan

To consider and comment on the following issues:

That the Committee:

- Considers responses to the draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan following public consultation.
- Receives an oral update in the meeting regarding the public consultation which closes on 19th December 2016.

Reasons:

- To comply with the Wales School Standards and Organisation Act (2013) which became law on 4 March 2013. The Act places a statutory duty on local authorities to prepare and submit a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. The Act enables the Government to approve the plan submitted, to approve the Plan with modifications, or reject the Plan and prepare another plan.
- Developing the plan requires local authorities to consult with the public and statutory consultees.
- Scrutiny committees have a key role to play in the development of policies.

To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: YES

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Gareth Jones (Education & Children)

<p>Directorate: Education & Children</p> <p>Name of Director: Gareth Morgans</p> <p>Report Authors: Aeron Rees</p> <p>Catrin Griffiths</p>	<p>Designations:</p> <p>Interim Director of Education & Children's Services</p> <p>Head of Learner Programmes</p> <p>Challenge Advisor</p>	<p>Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:</p> <p>01267246450 edgmorgans@cararthenshire.gov.uk</p> <p>01267 246532 jarees@cararthenshire.gov.uk</p> <p>01267 246641 cgriffiths@cararthenshire.gov.uk</p>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 22nd DECEMBER 2016

Welsh in Education Strategic Plan

The Wales School Standards and Organisation Act (2013) which became law on 4 March 2013, places a statutory duty on local authorities to prepare and submit a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP). The Act enables the Government to approve the plan submitted, to approve the Plan with modifications, or reject the Plan and ask us to prepare another plan. WESPs detail how local authorities aim to achieve the Welsh Government's outcomes and targets outlined in the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES) which sets out the Welsh Government's vision for an education and training system that responds in a planned way to the growing demand for Welsh-medium education.

They also have to reflect the context of the Welsh Government's wider strategy for the Welsh language. The Welsh Government's vision is to see '**A million Welsh speakers by 2050**'. To achieve that, the Welsh Government believes that several things need to happen:

- more children in Welsh-medium education;
- better planning in relation to how people learn the language;
- more easy-to-access opportunities for people to use the language;
- a stronger infrastructure and a revolution to improve digital provision in Welsh; and
- a sea change in the way we speak about it.

According to the most recent Census in 2011 there were 562,000 Welsh speakers in Wales. On that basis, the aim of the strategy will be to almost double the number of Welsh speakers by the middle of the century. In order for that to happen, the Welsh Government's draft strategy for the Welsh language prioritises 6 key areas for action:

1. Language planning and policy
2. Normalisation
- 3. Education**
4. People
5. Support
6. Rights

The Welsh Government recognises that the education system is the main way for ensuring that children are able to develop their Welsh skills, and for creating new speakers. The WESPs will provide the means for the Welsh Government to monitor the way in which local authorities respond and contribute to the implementation of these objectives.

- The Plan should provide the strategic direction for the planning and delivery of Welsh-medium and Welsh-language education in the authority as well as a vision statement.
- The Plan should be approved by the Executive Board and signed by the person with the statutory responsibility for education within the authority.
- The Plan needs to be underpinned and informed by Welsh Government's current Welsh-medium Education Strategy (April 2010) and policy statement for 2015-16 (March 2016).
- The Plan needs to reflect the following Welsh Government policies/strategies-
 - Welsh Language Strategy
 - Rewriting the Future
 - Successful Futures
 - Future Generations
 - Aligning with Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Programme
 - Welsh-medium Education Assessment and Childcare sufficiency assessment

The Plan will need to deliver on the following:

- **more seven-year-old children being taught through the medium of Welsh as a percentage of the Year 2 cohort;**
- **more learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary school to secondary school;**
- **more learners studying for qualifications through the medium of Welsh;**
- **more learners aged 16-19 studying Welsh and subjects through the medium of Welsh; and**
- **more learners with improved skills in Welsh.**

There is a requirement to address standards of attainment in Welsh and Welsh Second Language, Welsh-medium provision for learners with additional learning needs (ALN) and Workforce planning and continuing professional development (CPD).

We will need to consult with a range of stakeholders for a period of at least 8 weeks which include the statutory consultees:

- neighbouring local authorities
- the head teacher of each school maintained by it
- the governing body of each school maintained by it
- each institution within the further education sector in its area
- other prescribed persons.

“Other prescribed persons” are listed in Regulation 9:

- the Welsh Language Commissioner
- the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership
- school councils
- Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales
- such organisations providing services to children and young people as the local authority considers appropriate
- such other persons or bodies as appear to the local authority to be appropriate.

(Public consultation closes on 19th December 2016 which lies beyond the submission date for this report. However, an oral synopsis will be available at the Scrutiny Committee’s meeting on the 22nd December 2016).

Once agreed, the Plan should be published on the local authority’s websites by the 1st June 2017 with copies made available in offices and in any other place the local authority considers appropriate.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

NO – However, draft consultation version of the WESP is included for information

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Signed: **Gareth Morgans** Interim Director of Education & Children

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	YES	YES	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE

1. Policy and Crime & Disorder

Developments are consistent with the Local Authority's and Welsh Government's strategies and plans. It complies with Welsh Government statutory requirements.

2. Legal

Appropriate consultation will need to be undertaken and views from consultees considered.

3. Finance

As noted in the Census Working Group's recommendations, sufficient support and resources are required in order to develop and lead on the strategy to promote and extend Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire.

5. Risk Management Issues

Not delivering an aspirational Welsh in Education Strategic Plan could see problems being perpetuated and the County Council failing to meet WG requirements in respect of the development of Welsh medium education.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

Signed: Gareth Morgans Interim Director of Education & Children

1. Local Member(s) – All members have had an opportunity to respond to the draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. In addition, they have the opportunity to respond as members of a Governing Body

2. Community / Town Council – Not one of the statutory consultees.

3. Relevant Partners – A range of partners will be consulted – list in the Executive Summary.

4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – School staff unions have had an opportunity to respond during the formal consultation stage.

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW:

Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Welsh in Education Strategic Plans 2017-2020 – Welsh Government Guidance	Education & Children Department, Building 2, Parc Dewi Sant
Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020 – Consultation	Cymraeg http://leoli.sirgar.gov.uk/ymgyngoriadau/wesp/ English http://ilocal.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/consultations/wesp/
Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-17	Cymraeg http://www.sirgar.llyw.cymru/cartref/cyngor-a-democratiaeth/iaith-gymraeg/ English http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/welsh-language/