

# EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

## 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2018

**Subject: Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)  
(including pupils transferring from Welsh medium primary to  
Welsh medium Secondary Schools)**

**Purpose: To consider and comment on the following issues:**

- 1. To consider an update on the progress of the WESP**
- 2. To consider proposals for implementing the WESP**

**Reasons: In order for Elected Members to be able to discharge their scrutiny function with respect to this area of service delivery.**

**To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: NO**

**Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder:  
Cllr. Glynog Davies (Education and Children)**

<b>Directorate:</b> Education & Children	<b>Designations:</b>	Tel No.: 01267 246532
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Report Author: J. Aeron Rees		
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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY

# COMMITTEE

## 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2018

- Producing and implementing a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan is a statutory requirement for the Local Authority.
- The Carmarthenshire WESP was endorsed by Welsh Government (WG) in early March 2018, without the need for further amendments. We are encouraged that the Carmarthenshire WESP has been praised by senior Civil Servants.
- The following report provides an outline of the:
  - Policy and legislative background
  - Chronology of the iterative process
  - Underlying principles and rationale
  - Challenges and opportunities
  - Objectives of the WESP
  - 7 WESP Outcomes
  - Implementation
  - Support to Schools
  - Next Steps
- Background papers hyperlinked to the report include:
  - The WESP document in its entirety
  - The Implementation Plan

<b>DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?</b>	<b>YES</b>
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## 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:**            *J. Aeron Rees*            Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>

## 1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities:

This agenda is considered to be of corporate significance in Carmarthenshire. 'Moving the County's primary and secondary schools along the language continuum and affording pupils opportunities to pursue and continue their Welsh medium education throughout all key stages' is identified as a priority in the County Council's 'Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire: the next 5 years' strategic plan' (priority #31/98).

The Welsh Language Working Group, initiated after the 2011 census, is consolidating and upgrading its original recommendations and is working in parallel with the newly constituted Welsh in Education Forum to work towards a thriving, bilingual Carmarthenshire.

## 2. Legal

There is a statutory requirement, under the Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, for Local Authorities to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic plan for the perusal of Welsh Government. Furthermore, under section 85(7) of the same Act, Local Authorities are required to take all reasonable steps to implement their WESPs.

## 3. Finance

Whilst there is no explicit funding stream to support WESP development and implementation, the Department for Education and Children have identified and funded a full-time post by utilising existing budgets, earmarked for Welsh language development. In addition, Welsh Government have recently announced a £30million pan-Wales capital grant to facilitate growth in Welsh medium education and use of the Welsh language. The grant is aimed specifically at capital projects which will demonstrably contribute to meeting the WG's aim of realising one million speakers by 2050.

## 5. Risk Management Issues

Not pursuing this agenda proactively will challenge the County Council's statutory obligations as well as limiting stated policy aims. WG and the county council have expressed their heightened expectations through the democratic process, and officers are obliged to ensure that concerted progress is made in order to realise the ideals of: the Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013; Wellbeing goal 'A Wales of thriving Welsh language and culture' (Well Being of Future Generations Act 2015); Wales 2050 and County council priorities for the next 5 years.

Band B 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Modernising Education Proposals (MEP) will be expected to demonstrate alignment with, and reflect, the aims and objectives of the WESP. Approval of capital funding will be reliant upon receiving business cases which show the requisite synergy with the WESP.

## 6. Staffing Implications

Dovetailing growing national and local expectations merits securing the full-time input of an experienced operational manager to focus upon the promotion and development of Welsh language teaching and Welsh medium education across all learning settings.

The new role of Welsh Language Development Manager resides within the Curriculum and Wellbeing Division and exists to drive forward this area of service delivery. The Welsh Language Development Manager officially commenced duties on 1.1.18. This officer also oversees Welsh for Adults and The Athrawon Gwella'r Gymraeg a Dwyieithrwydd (AGGaD) (Improving Welsh and Bilingualism Teachers) Services.

## 7. Physical Assets

The Band B Modernising Education Programme has in-built provision for some 10 investment projects which will also expand Welsh medium school places. This is supplemented by the Local Authority's intention to plan for additionality by bidding for a proportion of the recently announced £30 million capital grant.

New buildings and extensions will be realised via this programme, which will, in parallel, modernise and rationalise the School estate.

## CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: *J. Aeron Rees*

Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing

### 1. Scrutiny Committee

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee were consulted informally from the 11-10-16 onwards and formally on 22-12-16.

### 2. 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 School Governing Body.

### 3. Community / Town Council

N/A

### 4. Relevant Partners

Statutory public consultation

- 11.10.16 – 19.12.16 (consultation on the draft plan)
- September 2017 (consultation on additions to the plan)

Consultees:

- neighbouring local authorities
- the headteacher 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, ESTYN
- 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.

### 5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

- Strategy and Budget Forum: 20.1.17
- Head teachers: 16.2.17; 9.3.17

**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
<b>WESP English</b>		<a href="#">\\ntcarmcc\cfp\Education &amp; Skills\Learner Programmes\Local Curriculum\WESP.CCC29-08-17.finalamended version.(004).pdf</a>
<b>CSGmA Cymraeg</b>		<a href="#">\\ntcarmcc\cfp\Education &amp; Skills\Learner Programmes\Local Curriculum\Cynllun Sir Gar.dwygiedig8.17 (004).pdf</a>
<b>Implementation Plan</b>		<a href="#">\\ntcarmcc\cfp\Education &amp; Skills\Learner Programmes\CSGMA\Cynllun Gweithredu Ionawr 2018.docx</a>