

# EDUCATION AND CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

17.3.21

## Subject: Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) Update

### Purpose:

- To provide an update re. progress in implementing the Carmarthenshire WESP (2017-21)
- To appraise Scrutiny of anticipated developments in Welsh Government (WG) policy, including the new Welsh in Education Strategic plan
- To share some inaugural thinking as to how the said WG developments might be taken forward in Carmarthenshire

### To consider and comment on the following issues:

- Comments invited on current progress
- Views canvassed on future WESP developments in light of WG policy directives

### 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 which needs to be monitored

To be referred to the Executive Board / Council for decision: YES

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER & EDUCATION PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Cllr. Glynog Davies**

Directorate Education and Children

Name of Head of Service:

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
**EDUCATION AND CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**17.3.21**

**Welsh in Education Strategic Plan Update**

**BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.**

The current WESP has been extended by one year and will conclude no later than September 2022. Highlights with respect to the strategy's implementation are provided. The current WESP is agreed and its implementation monitored by Welsh Government and the corporate process.

The next WESP is to be a 10-year plan to 2031. WG have shared the planning template and criteria with LAs. This and proposed ancillary developments indicate that there will be some noteworthy changes.

These proposed changes have certain implications for decision making in Carmarthenshire and some of the main changes are offered for discussion.

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?**

**YES (Briefing Paper)**

# 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.A. Rees , Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing

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

## 1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The Wales School Standards and Organisation Act (2013) 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 which needs to be monitored.

Carmarthenshire is lauded nationally as being innovative and proactive with respect to this agenda. Positive support will assist the agenda as we move beyond the 2021 census and towards the national goal of delivering a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

The developments outlined in the paper build upon corporate priorities identified in Carmarthenshire's Corporate Strategy (2018-23), namely Well Being Objectives 3 and 14. The direction of travel also support the work of the County working group established after the 2011 Census, where a decline in the number of Welsh speakers in the County caused some concern, leading to remedial action.

## 2. Legal

Appropriate consultation will need to be undertaken and views from consultees considered in respect of school linguistic designation and the new WESP.

## 3. Finance

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

## 5. Risk Management Issues

Not delivering an aspirational Welsh in Education Strategic Plan could:

- see the County Council failing to meet elevated WG requirements and expectations of Carmarthenshire with respect to the development of Welsh medium education and its WESP targets.
- entail failure to meet two key Corporate Wellbeing priorities
- exacerbate certain losses to Welsh medium education under lockdown conditions

## 6. Staffing Implications

Maintaining and developing a strong team of Tîm Athrawon Datblygu'r Gymraeg (TADG) – Welsh Improvement Teachers' Team) is vital for this agenda.

There are major staff training requirements which need to be expedited.

## 7. Physical Assets

MEP/MIM funding or similar can assist with the restructuring of parts of the system (separate discussion), with capital investment proactively supporting the WESP agenda.

# CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: *J.A. Rees*, Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing

(Please specify the outcomes of consultations undertaken where they arise against the following headings)

### 1. Scrutiny Committee

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee were initially consulted informally from the 11-10-16, and formally following consultation on 22-12-16 as a precursor to public consultation on the current WESP plan.

Subsequently, the consultation in terms of the linguistic re-designation of five schools has gone through the corporate process (2019) and was successfully concluded with Scrutiny Committee support.

Consultations pertaining to two other linguistic re-designations have recently received permission to consult with Scrutiny having been involved (2020/21)..

### 2. Welsh in Education Forum – Last met in December 2020

### 3. Local Member(s)

All Members have had an opportunity to respond to the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. In addition, they have had the opportunity to respond as members of a Governing Body.

### 4. Community / Town Council

Not one of the statutory consultees.

### 5. Relevant Partners

The full range of statutory partners were consulted

### 6. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

School staff unions have had an opportunity to respond during the formal consultation stage.

Head teacher surgeries 21.1.21

**EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIO  
HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED**

YES

**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
WG: Consultation on New school Linguistic categories		<a href="#">consultation</a>
WG: Draft WESP guidelines		<a href="https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-05/guidance-on-welsh-in-education-strategic-plans.pdf">https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-05/guidance-on-welsh-in-education-strategic-plans.pdf</a>