

CABINET

4TH JULY 2022

2022-2032 WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN

Purpose:

To consider Welsh Government feedback on our Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and approve the revisions prior to submitting for Ministerial Approval.

Recommendations / key decisions required:

Cabinet is requested to approve the content of the revised 2022-2032 Welsh in Education Strategic Plan following feedback from Welsh Government (WG), to be able to submit the finalised Strategy to WG before the June 24th deadline (now extended to July 4th).

Reasons:

- To provide information to Cabinet on the 'Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032' and the amendments made in response to WG feedback.
- To comply with the Wales School Standards and Organisation Act (2013) which places a statutory duty on local authorities to prepare and submit a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

Relevant scrutiny committee consulted: **YES**

The first draft of the 2022-2032 Welsh in Education Strategic Plan was presented to the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee on the 8th of July 2021 prior to formal public consultation (Autumn Term 2021). **The Committee UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report be received.** The consultation and amendments to the document were discussed at Cabinet on 31.01.22. The plan was approved and submitted to WG. A formal response was received by WG, dated May 18th.

Cabinet Decision Required **YES**

Council Decision Required **NO**

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Cllr Glynog Davies.

The Portfolio Holder is fully supportive of the 2022-2032 Welsh in Education Strategic Plan

Directorate: Education and Children's Services

Name of Head of Service:
Gareth Morgans

Report Author: Aeron Rees /
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Designations:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CABINET

4TH JULY 2022

2022-2032 WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN

The purpose of Carmarthenshire's 2022-2032 Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) is to detail how we aim to achieve the Welsh Government's outcomes and targets outlined in their Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The WMES 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. The aim is to facilitate an increase in the number of people of all ages able to use the Welsh language with their families, in their communities and in the workplace. Carmarthenshire's WESP is a key vehicle for creating an improved planning system for Welsh-medium education.

The WESP will provide the means for the Welsh Government to monitor the way in which we respond and contribute to the implementation of the WMES objectives.

Background of the Plan

The 2022-2032 Welsh in Education Strategic Plan is a statutory document that all Welsh Local Authorities are required to produce. This Plan is approved by Welsh Government. The government is presented with regular report on progress against the plan.

The Content of the Plan

The Local Authority must provide information and targets against 7 learning areas or strategic outcomes as follows:

Outcome 1- More nursery children / three-year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh

Outcome 2- More reception class children / five-year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh

Outcome 3- More children continue to improve their Welsh language skills when transferring from one stage of their statutory education to another

Outcome 4- More learners study for assessed qualifications in Welsh (as a subject) and subjects through the medium of Welsh

Outcome 5- More opportunities for learners to use Welsh in different contexts in school

Outcome 6- An increase in the provision of Welsh-medium education for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN)

Outcome 7- Increase the number of teaching staff able to teach Welsh (as a subject) and teach through the medium of Welsh

The 2022-2032 WESP has been developed based on 7 aspirations to strengthen provision in Carmarthenshire:

Consultation

The consultation process was implemented in line with Welsh Government guidance for an 8-week period between the 4th of October and November 29th 2021. A total of **862 responses**

received in response to the formal consultation. Various amendments were subsequently made to the plan and was then formally submitted to WG following Cabinet approval at the end of January 2022.

Feedback on our submission

Feedback on our submission was provided by WG in a formal letter, dated May 18th. WG is supportive of Carmarthenshire's vision, direction of travel and aspirations. This remains unchanged in our strategy. The main body of feedback has geared towards providing:

- additional data
- additional factual detail
- additional historical and contextual information
- some additional detail around aspects of implementation

This piece of work has been completed and is reflected in the detailed report provided.

Ministerial approval to WESPs throughout Wales is anticipated in a statement to the Senedd in early / mid-July. Prior to final submission, it has been considered prudent by officers to share the final draft with CMT and Cabinet before seeking the said Ministerial approval.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

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:

Director of Education and Children's Services

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

Developments are consistent with the Department, County Council and Welsh Government's strategies and plans. It complies with Welsh Government statutory requirements.

Legal

Section 84 of The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 20131 ("the 2013 Act") requires a local authority to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan ("the Plan") and outlines that a Plan must contain:

- a) A local authority's proposals on how it will carry out its education functions to:
 - i. Improve the planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh ("Welsh-medium education") in its area.
 - ii. Improve the standards of Welsh-medium education and of the teaching of Welsh in its area.
- b) The local authority's targets for improving the planning of the provision of Welsh-medium education in its area and for improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh in its area.
- c) Report on the progress made to meet the targets contained in the previous Plan or previous revised Plan.

Section 84 also sets out with whom a local authority is required to consult in preparing or revising its Plan and provides the Welsh Ministers with a power to prescribe other persons with which the local authority must consult. Section 85 of the 2013 Act requires each local authority to submit its Plan to Welsh Ministers for approval.

The Welsh Ministers may:

- approve the Plan as submitted,
- approve the Plan with modifications, or
- reject the Plan and prepare another Plan which is to be treated as the authority's approved Plan

The purpose of these regulations is to improve opportunities for local authorities to plan Welsh-medium education provision to support the current and future expectation for growth in Welsh-medium education. Improving the planning of Welsh-medium education will also support Welsh Government's long-term national ambition for the Welsh language as set out in *Cymraeg 2050: A Million Welsh speakers' strategy*, it will also contribute to promoting the Welsh language in accordance with the Promotion Standards under the Welsh Language Standards (No. 1) Regulations 2015 and support the introduction of a new curriculum for Wales.

Finance

Sufficient support and resources are required to develop and lead on the strategy to promote and extend Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire. This will involve redirecting some current Council budgets and taking advantage of grant funding from Welsh Government.

ICT

Continued support from IT will be required to support better ways of working and developing a blended approach to teaching, learning and training. This will include ensuring sufficient software and hardware to deliver on our aspirations.

Risk Management Issues

Failing to deliver an aspirational Welsh in Education Strategic Plan could see problems being perpetuated and the County Council failing to meet **Carmarthenshire and Welsh Government's** requirements in respect of the development of Welsh medium education **and the Welsh language**.

Physical Assets

We will need to consider our 2022-2032 Welsh in Education Strategic Plan as part of the review of the Modernising Education Programme and take advantage of Welsh Government targeted capital funding to support the development of Welsh-medium provision.


Staffing Implications

As noted there will be a comprehensive staff training offer available to upskill our education workforce to enable them to contribute to the delivery of our strategy. Governing Bodies will need to undertake regular staffing surveys to ensure they have the staff available to deliver on the Welsh Government's requirements regarding the teaching of Welsh.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed:



Director of Education and Children's Services

The consultation process was implemented in line with Welsh Government guidance for an 8-week period (4th of October until November 29th, 2021). This was a successful collaboration between the Education Department and colleagues in our Media Team. Substantial work was done to ensure that all stakeholders including parents and anyone living in Carmarthenshire were aware of the consultation. The table below outlines the comprehensive programme of promotion and consultations with key stakeholder groups e.g. Chairs of Governors.

October 2021

04/10	Consultation and dedicated content page with FAQs live on website
04/10	Statutory consultees letter sent
05/10	Web pop-up on Education pages
05/10	Web blocks on Education landing page and bilingual education landing page
05/10	Social media post on corporate accounts
05/10	Hwb and contact centre briefed and supplied with pdf document for paper copies if requested
05/10	Family Information Service & Flying Start- website/email content and social posts

05/10	Schools- info and draft social posts shared in schools' newsletter to issue to parents and staff
06/10	PR issued and on Newsroom
06/10	Town and Community Council's newsletter
07/10	Staff newsletter
07/10	Intranet
07/10	My Account newsletter
w/c 11/10	Social post
14/10	Members' seminar
w/c 18/10	Social post
w/c 25/10	Social post

November 2021

When?	What? Actions to take?
01/11	Web pop-up reinstated after half-term
w/c 01/11	Social post
04/11	Governors Chairs briefing
04/11	Town & Community Council's e-newsletter
04/11	Members' newsletter
04/11	Email to new additional stakeholders provided by policy.
w/c 08/11	Social post
w/c 08/11	Schools - info and draft social posts shared with schools directly to issue to parents and staff
w/c 08/11	PSB comms partners asked to share on their internal comms channels for staff (Police, health board, MAWWFRS, UWTSO & Coleg Sir Gar)
12/11	Carmarthenshire Youth Council
w/c 15/11	Social post
w/c 15/11	Staff newsletter
15/11	Insight Learner event
22/11	Social post with animation video
26/11	Social post with animation video

All stakeholders were advised they could respond to the consultation.

1. **Scrutiny Committee-** The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee was consulted on 8th July however a Members' Seminar was also held on the 14th of October.
2. **Local Member(s)** - All Members were advised of the consultation via the Members' Newsletter and via their school's Governing Body.
3. **Community / Town Council-** All Community and Town Councillors were advised of the consultation via the Town & Community Council's e-newsletter.
4. **Relevant Partners-** all statutory consultees were advised of the consultation on the 4th of October.
5. **Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations-** they were advised of the consultation and directed to the consultation pages on the County Council's Website.
6. **Fforwm y Gymaraeg mewn Addysg (Welsh in Education Forum)-** the draft WESP was discussed in meetings held on the 25th of June and 1st of October 2021.
7. **Cabinet – 31.1.22**

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER AWARE/CONSULTED	YES The Portfolio Holder is fully supportive of the 2022-2032 Welsh in Education Strategic Plan
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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 2022-2032- Welsh Government Guidance	Online	guidance-welsh-in-education-strategic-plan.pdf (gov.wales)
Cymraeg 2050: Welsh language strategy	Online	Cymraeg 2050: Welsh language strategy GOV.WALES
Cymraeg. It belongs to us all	Online	Cymraeg. It belongs to us all [HTML] GOV.WALES