

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Cabinet Meeting: 14 November, 2016

Report of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Education

Draft Welsh Medium in Education Strategic Plan 2017 - 2020

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform Members of the draft Welsh Medium Education Strategic Plan 2017 - 2020.

Recommendations

1. That Members note the draft Welsh Medium Education Strategic Plan 2017 - 2020 attached at [Appendix A](#) (English version) and [Appendix B](#) (Welsh version).
2. That Members delegate responsibility for any changes to the Welsh Medium Education Strategy 2017-2020 and its submission to Welsh Government to the interim Director of Learning and Skills, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Education.
3. That Cabinet refers this report and the appendices to the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee for consideration as part of the consultation process.

Reasons for the Recommendations

1. To ensure all members are aware of draft Welsh Medium Education Strategic Plan 2017 - 2020.
2. To address the requirements of the measure which became statutory in 2012 following consultation on School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Bill; White Paper.
3. To ensure the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee consider the plan during the consultation period.

Background

2. In 2010, Welsh Government published the Welsh Medium Education Strategy, outlining 5 outcomes for Local Authorities to enable growth in Welsh medium education.
3. The guidance forms part of the Council's broad strategy for the Welsh language and contains an action plan for the development of Welsh education in the Vale of Glamorgan.

4. The last Welsh Medium Education Strategic Plan was published in 2014, outlining the actions the Council would take to support the enhancement of Welsh medium education and improve outcomes.
5. This year, Welsh Government has outlined a vision to see one million Welsh speakers by 2050. The aim of the Welsh Medium Education Strategy 2017-2020 is to support this by building on the achievements of the previous strategy, and through further promotion of the use and benefits of Welsh medium education in lifelong learning.
6. Welsh Government has outlined a number of requirements to enable the Council to achieve its aims. These are:
 - 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
 - sea change in the way we speak about it.

Relevant Issues and Options

7. The consultation on the draft document opened on 3rd November 2016 and will run up to 29th December 2016 as part of Welsh Government's statutory consultation process. Members will have the opportunity to comment on and approve a fuller version prior to final submission to Welsh Government in January.
8. An updated draft copy of the Welsh Medium Education Strategic Plan 2017 - 2020 is due to be submitted to Welsh Government by 20 December 2016, with an opportunity to further amend and refine the plan as a result of the Consultation exercise.
9. The Council is required to include data relating to performance against the following targets within the Welsh Medium Education Strategic Plan 2017 - 2020 Action Plan:
 - 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.

Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)

10. The resources required to deliver the Council's obligations under the new Welsh in Education Strategic Plan are included in current revenue budgets.

Sustainability and Climate Change Implications

11. None

Legal Implications (to Include Human Rights Implications)

12. The consultation and submission of the Council's Welsh Medium Education Strategic Plan is a statutory requirement of the School Standards and Organisation Act (2013).

Crime and Disorder Implications

13. There are no crime and disorder implications.

Equal Opportunities Implications (to include Welsh Language issues)

14. The Welsh Medium Education Strategic Plan is one of the key elements of the Council's response to its equal opportunities and Welsh Language obligations.

Corporate/Service Objectives

15. The priorities and principles of the Welsh Medium Education Strategic Plan contribute to the Council's Wellbeing Outcome 3: An Aspirational and Culturally Vibrant Vale, specifically with relation to Objective 6: Valuing Culture and Diversity.

Policy Framework and Budget

16. This is a matter for Executive decision.

Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)

17. Consultation has taken place with contributors to the Welsh Medium Education Strategic Plan 2017 – 2020 via the Welsh Medium Education Strategic Forum.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

18. Learning and Culture.

Background Papers

None

Contact Officer

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Officers Consulted

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David Davies, Head of Achievement for All
Morwen Hudson, Lead Officer for School Improvement and Senior Challenge Advisor
Jeremy Morgan, Senior Governor Support Officer
Michael Matthews, Principle Planning Officer
Lisa Lewis, School Access Manager
Mark Haynes, Project Manager, Consultancy
Tina Simmonds, Engagement and Progression Manager
Mark Davies, Prevention and Partnership Manager
Phil Southard, Culture and Community Learning Manager

Responsible Officer:

Paula Ham, Interim Director of Learning and Skills