

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Cabinet Meeting: 20 November, 2017

Report of the Cabinet Member for Learning and Culture

Draft Welsh Medium in Education Strategic Plan 2017 - 2020

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Cabinet approval for the Council's updated Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2017-2020.

Recommendations

1. That Members note the amendments to the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017 - 2020 attached at [Appendix A](#) (English) and [Appendix B](#) (Welsh) to this report.
2. That Cabinet approve the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020.

Reasons for the Recommendations

1. To enable Cabinet to consider how the approach in supporting Welsh medium education contributes to delivering the Council's vision of 'strong communities with a bright future' and supports the Welsh Government's aim of achieving a million Welsh speakers by 2050.
2. To meet the Council's statutory requirement in establishing a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

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:
 - 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.
3. The guidance above forms part of the Council's existing 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 2014-2017 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 have 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. A draft copy of the Welsh Medium Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2017 - 2020 was approved by Cabinet on November 14 2016 and submitted to Welsh Government on 20 December 2016.
8. The Authority was required to include data relating to performance against the following Outcomes within the Welsh Medium Education Strategic Plan 2017 - 2020 (WESP) Action Plan:
 - Outcome 1: More seven-year-old children being taught through the medium of Welsh
 - Outcome 2: More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school.
 - Outcome 3: More students aged 14-16 studying for qualifications through the medium of Welsh.
 - Outcome 4: More students aged 14-19 in study subjects through the medium of Welsh, in schools, colleges and work-based learning.
 - Outcome 5: More students with advanced skills in Welsh.
 - Outcome 6: Welsh medium provision for learners with additional learning needs (ALN).
 - Outcome 7: Workforce planning and continuing professional development.
9. Following the Council's submission, the Minister for Lifelong Learning and the Welsh Language, Alun Davies AM, delivered a statement on 14 March 2017 in the Senedd on WESPs – the way forward. The statement announced the appointment of Aled

Roberts to conduct a rapid review of all WESPs 2017-20 with the review intended to be completed by the end of April 2017.

10. In April 2017, Aled Roberts met with the Vale of Glamorgan Council to review its draft WESP. An updated version of the Vale's WESP 2017-20 was submitted to Aled Roberts on 11 May 2017 in response to feedback from his review meeting.
11. Welsh Government launched the new Welsh Language Strategy – “Cymraeg 2050 – a million Welsh speakers” on 11 July 2017.
12. Local Authorities received formal feedback on 4 August 2017 from the review by Aled Roberts into their WESPs with suggested points to review and modifications required. The authority needed to provide or amend the following targets:
 - Welsh Foundation Phase Outcome 5+: 2018-19 and 2019-20.
 - Welsh Key Stage 2 Level 4: 2019-20.
 - Welsh Key Stage 3 Level 5: 2019-20.
 - Welsh Key Stage 4 A*- C L2: 2019-20.
 - Welsh Second Language Key Stage 2 Level 4: 2019-20.
 - Welsh Second Language Key Stage 3 Level 5: 2019-20.
 - Welsh Second Language Key Stage 4 A*-C Level 2 Full Course: 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20.
 - Welsh Second Language Key Stage 4 A* - C L2 Short Course: 2016-17 and 2017-18.
 - Provide further details of the schools that are within the 10% threshold for capacity.
 - Details are needed regarding how any housing developments and 106 agreements are taken into account in planning Welsh medium places.
 - Need details for the options regarding the centre for latecomers.
 - There is a need to set objectives and timescales for conducting a Welsh medium Additional Learning Needs audit.
13. The amendments have been included in the revised WESP, at [Appendix A](#) (English) and [Appendix B](#) (Welsh).
14. Welsh Government agreed to a draft updated WESP 2017-20 submission by 29 September to allow for the Vale of Glamorgan Council and other Local Authorities in Wales to consult on and seek approval on the updates.
15. The Vale WESP Forum considered the updates to the Vale of Glamorgan Council's WESP 2017-20 at its meeting on the 19 October 2017. All schools in the Vale were also invited to provide feedback by the 23 October 2017. No responses were received.
16. Subject to approval by the Council's Cabinet, the Vale of Glamorgan's WESP 2017-20 will be submitted to Welsh Government by the end of November 2017 for consideration and approval by the Minister.

Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)

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

of Welsh immersion provision, currently being funded from directorate reserves. The requirement to fund this in future will require resources to be re-allocated.

Sustainability and Climate Change Implications

18. None.

Legal Implications (to Include Human Rights Implications)

19. 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

20. There are no crime and disorder implications.

Equal Opportunities Implications (to include Welsh Language issues)

21. 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

22. 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

23. This is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet.

Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)

24. 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

25. Learning and Culture

Background Papers

None

Contact Officer

Trevor Baker, Head of Strategy, Community Learning & Resources

Officers Consulted

Paula Ham, Director of Learning & Skills
Jeremy Morgan, Senior Governor Support Officer

Responsible Officer:

Paula Ham, Director of Learning and Skills