

Meeting of:	Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 14 January 2021
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Learning and Culture
Report Title:	Impact of work in the Central South Consortium's business plan on the region and The Vale of Glamorgan Local Authority
Purpose of Report:	To inform Members of the impact of work in the Central South Consortium's business plan on the region and the Vale of Glamorgan
Report Owner:	Andrew Williams, Assistant Director and Carys Pritchard, Principle Improvement Partner
Responsible Officer:	Paula Ham, Director of Learning and Skills
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Councillor Lis Burnett, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration
Policy Framework:	The recommendations of this report are within existing policy framework and budget.
Executive Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The work of the Central South Consortium plays a vital role in the delivery of the Council's statutory responsibilities in relation to schools. Since 2012, Central South Consortium has delivered aspects of school improvement services on behalf of the five authorities: Bridgend, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf and the Vale of Glamorgan. This report outlines the impact of work in the Central South Consortium's business plan on the region and the Vale of Glamorgan. The report includes information and evidence of challenge and support provided by the Consortium on behalf of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Recommendations

1. That Members note the report outlining the impact of Central South Consortium's work on the region and the Vale of Glamorgan (Appendix A).

Reasons for Recommendations

1. In order that Members are aware of the impact of Central South Consortium's work on schools in the Vale of Glamorgan.

1. Background

- 1.1 Since 2012, Central South Consortium has delivered aspects of school improvement services on behalf of the five authorities: Bridgend, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf and the Vale of Glamorgan. This covers 381 schools, 32% of Wales' children. It is a growing region with rapidly changing demographic encompassing increasingly diverse communities across the economic sub region. It remains the region with the highest number of children living in poverty, with just under 1 in 5 children claiming free school meals.
- 1.2 The service delivers challenge and support on behalf of the five local authorities, governed through a Joint Committee of Cabinet Members from each authority. The Joint Committee meets regularly and formally approves the annual business plan and budget for the service, holding the service to account in terms of performance and budgetary control.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1 This report outlines the impact of work in the Central South Consortium's business plan on the region and the Vale of Glamorgan.
- 2.2 It documents the impact of the challenge and support provided by the Consortium on behalf of the Vale of Glamorgan including Estyn inspection findings and outcomes of the categorisation process.
- 2.3 The report also outlines the support provided to schools, engagement in school to school working, involvement in leadership provision and work in developing the Curriculum for Wales.
- 2.4 It documents the work of the consortium during national lockdown including findings of an overview of distance learning provision in schools and examples of the engagement of improvement partners with schools during this period.
- 2.5 The report also outlines the Improvement Partner's work to support the reopening of schools, and the evolving role of the Improvement Partner in supporting school improvement from September 2020 onwards.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1** The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 (“the 2015 Act”) requires the Council to think about the long-term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities and each other and to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change.
- 3.2** This report supports the Council's Wellbeing Outcome 3: An Aspirational and Culturally Vibrant Vale, Corporate Objective 5 'Raising overall standards of achievement' and specifically, addresses these actions:
- Improve standards of achievement for pupils through sharing excellence between schools and the targeting of resources
 - Secure improved outcomes for groups of learners at risk of underachievement, such as those entitled to free school meals
 - Increase the learning opportunities for disadvantaged individuals and vulnerable families
- 3.3** This report recognises the importance of improvement in school outcomes and provisions through good leadership.
- 3.4** The report recognises the importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the outcome and those people reflect the diversity of the area which the report addresses. All relevant stakeholders have been involved in the consultation process through this report.

4. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 4.1** There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Employment

- 4.2** There are no employment implications arising from this report.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 4.3** There are no legal implications arising from this report.

5. Background Papers

None.