

**BYDD CYFARFOD O'R GWASANAETH ADDYSG AR Y CYD - CONSORTIWM
CANOLBARTH Y DE YN CAEL EI GYNNAL YN
Nghanolfan Menter y Cymoedd, Abercynon , CF45 4SN
Dydd Iau, 8fed Tachwedd, 2018 at 10.00 am**

1. DATGAN BUDDIANT

To receive disclosures of personal interest from Members in accordance with the Code of Conduct

Note:

1. Members are requested to identify the item number and subject matter that their interest relates to and signify the nature of the personal interest: and
2. Where Members withdraw from a meeting as a consequence of the disclosure of a prejudicial interest they must notify the Chairman when they leave.

2. COFNODION

Cadarnhau bod y cofnodion o gyfarfod Cyd-bwyllgor Gwasanaeth Addysg ar y Cyd Consortiwm Canolbarth y De a gynhaliwyd ar 13 Medi 2018 yn rhai cywir.

**(Tudalennau 3 -
10)**

3. CYNIGION CYLLIDEB CRAIDD

Trafod adroddiad ar y cyd Rheolwr-Gyfarwyddwr dros dro Consortiwm Canolbarth y De a'r Trysorydd

**(Tudalennau 11 -
18)**

4. ADRODDIAD – GWYBODAETH AM Y GYLLIDEB 2019/20

Trafod adroddiad ar y cyd Rheolwr-Gyfarwyddwr dros dro Consortiwm Canolbarth y De a'r Trysorydd

**(Tudalennau 19 -
38)**

5. GRANT DATBLYGU DISGYBLION 2018-19

Trafod adroddiad Rheolwr-Gyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth Addysg ar y Cyd Consortiwm Canolbarth y De.

**(Tudalennau 39 -
64)**

6. ADOLYGU CYFEIRIAD Y CONSORTIWM YN Y DYFODOL

Trafod adroddiad y Prif Weithredwr Arweiniol.

**(Tudalennau 65 -
72)**

7. MATERION BRYS

Trafod unrhyw faterion sydd, yn ôl doethineb y Cadeirydd, yn faterion brys yng ngoleuni amgylchiadau arbennig.

At: Pob Aelod o'r Gwasanaeth Addysg ar y Cyd - Consortiwm Canolbarth y De



Minutes of the Meeting of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee held at the Valleys Innovation Centre, Abercynon, CF45 4SN on Thursday 13th September 2018 at 10:00am

PRESENT

Members of the Committee

Councillor S. Merry (Cardiff City Council)
Councillor J. Rosser (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)
Councillor R. Penrose (Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council)

Council Officers in Attendance

Mr C. Bradshaw – Lead Chief Executive (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)
Mr. P. Griffiths – Service Director, Performance & Improvement (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)
Ms P Ham – Director of Learning & Skills (Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council)
Ms S Walker – Chief Education Officer (Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council)
Mrs G Davies – Director of Education and Inclusion Services (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)
Mr L, Harvey – Corporate Director Education & Family Support (Bridgend County Borough Council)
Mr N. Batchelar – Director of Education (Cardiff City Council)

Also in Attendance

Mr M. Glavin – Managing Director (Central South Consortium)
Ms. L. Blatchford – Senior Lead - Business and Operations (Central South Consortium)
Mr A. Williams – Central South Consortium
Ms A Brychan – Central South Consortium
Ms H Williams – Wales Audit Office

16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors L Mytton (Merthyr Tydfil CBC) and C Smith (Bridgend CBC).

17. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Members had no personal interests to declare in matters pertaining to the agenda.

18. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee held on the 14th June 2018.

19. CHANGE TO THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

The Committee agreed that the agenda would be considered out of sequence and as detailed in the minutes set out hereunder.

20. TEACH FIRST

Members of the Committee were presented with the report which provided information on activity towards Key Performance Indicators for the Teach First Cymru contract with the Central South Consortium and highlighted key developments this year.

Members considered the report and put forward their questions to the Director of Teach First Cymru Wales. Members also requested information on the expenditure profile for the programme and the Managing Director indicated that this information will be provided at the next Joint Committee meeting. Following discussion Members **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the report.

21. REPORT OF THE WALES AUDIT OFFICE – AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Ms H Williams, Wales Audit Office, presented to Members of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee the report in respect of the Audit of Financial Statements for the Central South Consortium for the 2017/18 financial year. Ms H. Williams outlined the purpose of the report and thanked the Consortium for the continued support.

It was reported that there were no misstatements in the financial statements which remain uncorrected. Ms. Williams went on to inform the Committee that there were some minor misstatements and some narrative changes that have been made to the financial statements as a result of the audit; however there were none that the Wales Audit Office considered should be brought to the Committee's attention.

Members were pleased to see the positive report and acknowledged the work that the Consortium had undertaken along with the Wales Audit Office.

Members **RESOLVED** to accept the Audit of Financial Statement Report of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee.

22. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR-ENDED 31st MARCH 2018

The Service Director - Performance and Improvement presented the Treasurer's report to the Joint Committee in respect of the Central South Consortium Statement of Accounts for the financial year ending 31st March 2018.

The Service Director explained that the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations require the Responsible Financial Officer to certify the unaudited Statement of Accounts by 30th June following the financial year end. He confirmed that the Joint Committee complied with the regulations in this respect and the unaudited accounts were signed by the Responsible Financial Officer in advance of the required date on 14th June 2018.

The Service Director informed the Committee that the updated Central South Consortium Statement of Accounts 2017/18, taking account of the minor misstatements and narrative changes identified as part of the external audit, was attached at Appendix 1. The Service Director also drew Members attention to Appendix 2 that contained the Letter of Representation for the Joint Committee and Appendix 3 that contained the Audit enquiries letter to those charged with Governance and Management.

The Service Director went on to inform Members that the audited final outturn position for the 2017/18 financial year was a £7k underspend and the level of General Balances held at 31st March 2018 was £136k.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

(1) Approve the Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2017/18 (Appendix 1), associated Letter of Representation of the Joint Committee (Appendix 2) and Audit enquiries letter to those charged with governance and management (Appendix 3); and

(2) To acknowledge the audited final outturn position for the Joint Committee for the 2017/18 financial year and the level of General Reserve Balances held.

23. 2018/19 BUDGET REPORT

The Service Director- Performance and Improvement presented the report of the Treasurer in respect of the 2018/19 budget for the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee.

Members were asked to consider, and if appropriate, approve virements to the 2018/19 revenue budget and Members were provided with an update on the projected outturn for 2018/19 together with a summary of the 2018/19 grant funding position.

The Service Director highlighted that following the Joint Committee approving the 2018/19 revenue budget on the 5th December 2017, a number of proposed budget virements had been identified, informed by up dated service information, to more accurately reflect the actual costs to be incurred during the year.

The Service Director went on to inform Members that the projected outturn position for the full year is a £3.5k underspend (projected as at August 2018). The Service Director added that the Consortium will continue to monitor and manage its resources and report up dates to the Joint Committee throughout the year.

Following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED** to:-

1. Note and approve the proposed budget virements within the 2018/19 budget.
2. Note the current outturn position for 2018/19.
3. Note the current grant position for 2018/19.

24. SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE

The Managing Director Central South Consortium with aid of handouts presented a summary of Performance 2018 data outlining final performance figures for Key Stage 3 and provisional figures for Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5.

The Managing Director Central South Consortium presented the information under the following headings:

- Foundation Phase – Regional Performance
- Foundation Phase – Areas of Learning
- Foundation Phase – e - FSM vs. non e - FSM
- Comparisons to Wales Average FP
- Foundation Phase – Difference from Wales
- Key Stage 2- Regional Performance
- Key Stage 2- Core Subjects
- Key Stage 2 - e - FSM vs. non e – FSM
- Comparisons to Wales Average KS2
- Difference from Wales KS2
- Key Stage 3 - Regional Performance
- Key Stage 3 - Core Subjects
- Key Stage 3 - e - FSM vs. non e – FSM

- Comparisons to Wales Average KS3
- Difference from Wales KS3
- Key Stage 4 - Regional Performance
- Key Stage 4 - Core Subjects
- Key Stage 4 - e - FSM vs. non e – FSM
- Key Stage 4 – L2+
- Key Stage 5 – Regional Performance
- Key Stage 5 – Performance Measures

The Managing Director Central South Consortium outlined the data in all Key Stages. In respect of the Foundation Phase it was brought to Members attention that performance in all key indicators have fallen; however, the fall is smaller regionally than nationally. It was also explained that at the expected level, all performance measures are above the National average for 2018 results and at the above expected level, the Consortium exceeds the National average for Language Communication English and Mathematical Development, but is below the National average for Language Communication Welsh and Personal and Social Development.

In respect of the Foundation Phase Indicator (FPOI) it was explained that this has fallen to its lowest position over the last three-year period, but the decrease seen for the Central South Consortium is smaller than seen nationally for this performance measure. Members were informed that at the expected level and the above expected level, the gap between the performance of boys and girls has narrowed for all performance measures. The performance of both e - FSM and non e - FSM has fallen in the most recent year for the FPOI; however, the performance of e FSM pupils has fallen at a faster rate than non e – FSM pupils, and therefore, the gap has widened.

Moving on to Key Stage 2 performance measures, the Managing Director Central South Consortium informed Members that the Consortium continues to perform above the national average at both the expected level and above expected level, which includes both English and Welsh. There have also been further improvements in the Core Subject Indicator of the Central South Consortium during the last academic year.

In relation to Key Stage 3 Members were pleased to see that at level 7+, improvements have been made in all four performance indicators in the most recent academic year. Members were informed the gap in performance e-FSM and non e - FSM pupils has narrowed to its lowest position seen over a period of 4 years. Whilst the performance has increased for both pupil groups in the most recent academic year.

Members received an update on performance in respect of Key Stage 4 and it was explained to Members that all performance measures increased during the year, with the exception of Level 2 Science. However, it was explained that direct comparisons for Level 2 Science should be treated with caution, due to the changes to GCSE Science only for 2018 reporting. It was brought to Members attention that the gap in performance between e – FSM and non e –

FSM pupils in the region has increased for Level 2+ Threshold. However, this is seen against increasing performance for both groups of pupils, but non e – FSM pupils have improved at a faster rate in most recent years which has resulted in an increase in the gap in performance.

Members asked in respect of post 16 what work is being carried out. Officers explained more attention is being put on the challenge and support role. In respect of 16+ PI's Members were informed that colleges capture the data differently making direct comparisons with schools more difficult

Following consideration of the report Members **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the summary of performance.

25. CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM BUSINESS PLAN

The Managing Director Central South Consortium presented Members with the Business Planning Update. Members were informed that the first year of the improved system of business planning was completed at the end of March 2018.

The Joint Committee was reminded that it agreed the business plan 2018/2019 at its meeting held on 15th March 2018 and is monitoring implementation throughout the year. For the benefit of Members a summary of progress made in the first term of implementation was included.

Following evaluation of the business plan for 2018/2019 it was **RESOLVED**:

- To note the provisional performance data for the academic year 2017/18; and
- To note the progress made in implementing the business plan 2018/19.

26. BUDGET OVERVIEW AND CONSIDERATION FOR OPTIONS FOR CHANGE

The Managing Director Central South Consortium along with the Senior Lead Business and Operations presented Members with the 'Budget Overview and Consideration of Options for Change Report '.

The Managing Director provided an overview of the report that included how the Consortium has met the challenges of delivering core budget savings in recent years together with information on the 2018/19 core revenue budget and planning for 2019/ 20 and beyond. As part of the overview, the Managing Director reminded the Committee that the update was prepared in line with Members' requirements as highlighted in the 14th June Joint Committee meeting.

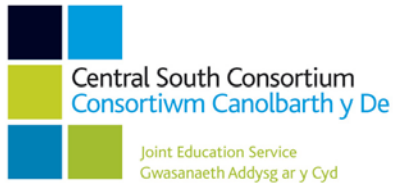
The Managing Director went on to set out a number of possible budget saving areas for the Joint Committee's consideration along with a range of options for Members review regarding arrangements for the approval and apportionment of external grant funding 'award offers'.

Following consideration of the Report Members **RESOLVED** to:

- Note the content of the Report;
- Support the formulation of more detailed savings options and report to the Joint Committee for consideration ahead of the December 2018 Joint Committee meeting; and
- Continue to delegate responsibility to the 'Directors' steering group to approve the appointment of grants and report recommendations to Joint Committee, and as papers are issued a week in advance of the meeting, provide opportunity to discuss with Cabinet Members prior to the Directors' meeting taking place.

**CLLR S MERRY
CHAIR**

The meeting terminated at 11:50am.



CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM REPORT FOR JOINT COMMITTEE

8TH NOVEMBER 2018

JOINT EDUCATION SERVICE

JOINT REPORT OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR AND THE TREASURER – 2019/20 BUDGET PROPOSALS

**Authors: Louise Blatchford (Senior Lead – Business and Operations) and
Paul Griffiths (Head of Performance and Improvement)**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To set out core budget saving recommendations to enable a balanced 2019/20 revenue budget to be proposed to the December 2018 Joint Committee meeting.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Consider and endorse the core budget saving recommendations (Section 4), and instruct the Treasurer to incorporate the financial effect into the 2019/20 Budget Setting Report to be presented to Joint Committee in December 2018.
- 2.2 Note the up dated medium term financial modelling position (Section 5) and agree to receive further budget saving option updates following completion of the 2019/20 budget setting process.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At the 13th September 2018 Joint Committee meeting, Members were provided with a report titled 'Budget overview and consideration of options for change' that set out an overview of the Central South Consortium's (CSC) core revenue budget together with a forecasted outlook for the period 2019/20 to 2021/22.

- 3.2 The outcome of Members' review at the September 2018 meeting was to support the formulation of more detailed core budget saving options and report back ahead of the December 2018 Joint Committee meeting.
- 3.3 One of the issues we face in setting an annual budget is that if we wish to make a fundamental change to release revenue savings, it will take at least 18 months or so, given the need to maintain provision over academic years, to make the changes and release the savings. Therefore, to plan for the 2020/21 budget, if we wish to make sufficient changes, we have to identify and agree the changes by March 2019.
- 3.4 The education environment in Wales is going through substantial change. These changes include a new curriculum from Foundation Phase through to Key Stage 5, new accountability frameworks, new approaches to supporting children with Additional Learning Needs, the implementation of schools as learning organisations, the introduction of a National Academy for Educational Leadership (endorsing programmes which will in turn attract funding), the launch of a professional learning model (which will impact upon school to school programmes) as well as changes to the way in which Estyn will inspect schools and local authorities. All this change is being delivered with no direct increase in the funding available to schools and local authorities.
- 3.5 The financial pressures on schools and local authorities are significant and whilst the current model of school improvement in Central South has been successful, is it:
 1. Fit for purpose for the future, taking into account the changes to 3-18 school provision being made by Welsh Government? and
 2. Affordable over the next 3-5 years, with a likely continued period of austerity?
- 3.6 After a discussion with the Chair of the Joint Committee and the Chief Executives of the five Councils that comprise the CSC, it is proposed that an independent review of Central South Consortium is undertaken to develop a model that meets the Councils' statutory requirements and addresses the two questions above. A separate paper on the review will be considered in another report on the Joint Committee Agenda at this meeting.
- 3.7 There is no doubt that the only way forward is regional working with councils working in partnership with their schools, but we have to either change our approach to school improvement to meet the new agenda and the continued financial pressures or prioritise funding to maintain specific service standards.
- 3.8 In discussion with the Chair of the Joint Committee and given the fact that an independent review of CSC will be undertaken to inform future budgets, the Chief Executives and Education Directors of the five Councils that comprise the CSC, have worked with the Managing Director to compile

core budget saving options for 2019/20, the detail of which is set out in Section 4 of this report.

4. Core Budget Saving Recommendations – 2019/20

- 4.1 As part of the process of planning the level of savings required, the Chief Executives and Education Directors have given careful consideration to the extent of available budget saving opportunities having regard to the forecasted financial challenges facing the five member Councils; the importance of protecting, as far as is practicable, resources for school improvement activities; and recognising that a thorough independent review will be undertaken of the future shape and activities of CSC to inform future revenue budgets.
- 4.2 In line with the above considerations, Table 1 sets out the Chief Executives' and Directors' of Education recommendations to the Joint Committee for setting the 2019/20 core revenue budget.

Table 1 – Chief Executives' & Directors' of Education Recommendations

Recommendations	2019/20 Core Budget Saving Requirement	
	£k	£k
5% reduction in local authority contribution levels		195
<u>Inescapable budget pressures</u>		
Pay Award	36	
Other (i.e. Removal of Business Support Vacancy Factor)	30	
Non-pay (i.e. Licences and Employer and Public Liability Insurance)	5	
2019/20 Total Saving Requirement (Budget Gap)		266
Budget Savings Approved ¹		(100)
Revised Budget Gap		166

- 4.3 Based on the recommendations of the Chief Executives and Directors of Education, the financial impact on 2019/20 local authority contribution levels is set out in Table 2. In line with the Legal Agreement for the CSC, funding contributions from each local authority are based on specific Indicator Based Assessments (IBAs) published by the Welsh Government; Members will note that Table 2 includes the latest IBA information published by Welsh Government as part of the Provisional Local Government Revenue and Capital Settlement 2019/20.

¹ Budget Savings Approved – as per 15th March 2018 Joint Committee meeting i.e. an alternative approach to funding redundancy costs

Table 2 – 2019/20 local authority contribution levels based on provisional 2019/20 IBAs

Authority	Provisional 19/20 IBA '000	Allocation %	2018/19 LA Contribution £	2019/20 LA Proposed Contribution (5% reduction) £	Reduction £
Bridgend	86,161	15.38%	605,892	570,792	(35,106)
Cardiff	202,756	36.20%	1,413,526	1,343,202	(70,296)
Merthyr Tydfil	35,440	6.33%	246,603	234,781	(11,818)
Rhondda Cynon Taf	153,094	27.33%	1,066,087	1,014,204	(51,903)
Vale of Glamorgan	82,702	14.76%	574,053	547,874	(26,185)
Total	560,153	100.00%	3,906,161	3,710,853	(195,308)

4.4 To address the 2019/20 total saving requirement (Table 1), Table 3 sets out core budget savings proposals for Joint Committee's consideration.

Table 3 – Proposed 2019/20 core budget savings

Core Budget Saving Proposal	Full Year Core Budget Saving £k
<u>Release of vacant positions</u>	
Business Support Officer x 1	25
Data Analyst Officer x 1	37
Eligible salaries charged to Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant	66
Strategic responsibilities aligned to Senior Challenge Advisers to be charged to grant	31
Other	7
Total	166

4.5 It is the view of the Chief Executives, Directors of Education and Managing Director that the above proposals can be delivered without impacting on the direct school improvement activities provided by the CSC. In parallel, the Treasurer has validated the proposed budget saving amounts set out in Table 3 and confirmed that they would be available for release in the 2019/20 financial year. Furthermore, if additional savings are identified as a result of the review of the CSC, and these savings can be achieved in 2019/20, these will be presented to the Joint Committee at a future date for consideration.

4.6 Subject to Joint Committee's consideration of the proposals set out in Table 3, the Treasurer will be requested to incorporate the financial effect

into the 2019/20 Budget Setting report for consideration by the Committee at its December 2018 meeting.

- 4.7 As Members will be aware, an approved earmark reserve amounting to £130k was set up as part of the CSC's 2017/18 Statement of Accounts to support the remodelling / restructuring of the service over the medium term. The on-going requirement for this reserve, together with the adequacy of its level, will be kept under regular review as part of budget monitoring arrangements.

5. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN (2019/20 TO 2021/22)

- 5.1 Members will recall that an up dated medium term financial forecast was reported to the 13th September 2018 Joint Committee meeting to help inform considerations in shaping the future structure of the CSC. As part of on-going modelling, the medium term financial forecast has been up dated in line with the core budget saving recommendations (Section 4.2 of this report) and also based on the following assumptions:

- Staffing costs:
 - Based on the current staffing structure in place with a 2% pay award applied for each of the three years (i.e. 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22);
 - No change to Pension Fund contribution rates over the 3 year period. The Local Government Pension Fund valuation is scheduled for 2019 with any changes to contribution rates being effective from the 2020/21 financial year. The outcome of this exercise will be taken account of as part of future modelling updates; and
 - The outcome of the Government's 4 yearly actuarial valuation of national unfunded pension schemes is not yet known; this could have implications for the contribution rates for the Teachers Pensions Scheme and will be taken account of as part of future modelling up dates.
- Non-pay inflation applied in line with the forecasted inflation rates included in the latest Bank of England Inflation Report (August 2018).

- 5.2 To assist the CSC and the Joint Committee in its planning considerations over the medium term, a number of financial modelling scenarios have been compiled using the above assumptions and a summary is set out in Table 4.

Table 4 – Summary medium term financial modelling (2019/20 to 2021/22)

Financial Scenarios	Modelling	Forecasted Budget Gaps			
		2019/20 (£k)	2020/21 (£k)	2021/22 (£k)	Total (£k)
Forecasted Budget Gap (LA contributions: 19/20 -5%, 20/21 0% and 21/22 - 0%)		166	61	62	289
Forecasted Budget Gap (LA contributions: 19/20 -5%, 20/21 -3% and 21/22 - 3%)		166	172	170	508
Forecasted Budget Gap (LA contributions: 19/20 -5%, 20/21 -5% and 21/22 - 5%)		166	247	238	651

- 5.3 It is considered that the scale of potential budget savings required over the medium term will not be fully deliverable from back-office areas / efficiency savings and will necessitate the CSC to propose changes to its school improvement model. Further work will be undertaken, led by Chief Executives, the Managing Director and Education Directors and in consultation with the Joint Committee, following completion of the 2019/20 budget setting process.

6. **CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 The Chief Executives and Directors of Education of the member local authorities that comprise the CSC have set out a recommended budget saving requirement for 2019/20 and along with the Manager Director have compiled budget saving proposals to meet this requirement. In parallel, the Treasurer has validated the proposed budget saving amounts and confirmed they would be available for release in the forthcoming financial year.
- 6.2 Subject to Joint Committee’s consideration of the recommended budget savings requirement and proposed savings, the Treasurer will be requested to incorporate agreed information into the 2019/20 Budget Setting report for presentation to the Joint Committee at its December 2018 meeting.
- 6.3 Further to setting the 2019/20 revenue budget, updates will be reported to the Joint Committee in 2019 setting out proposals for the on-going provision of a school improvement model in line with available resources.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

8TH NOVEMBER 2018

CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM JOINT COMMITTEE

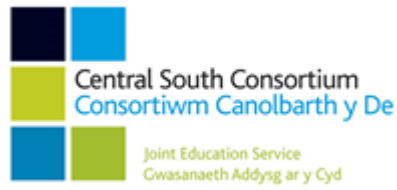
List of background papers

Freestanding matter

Officers to Contact:

Mrs Louise Blatchford (Tel No. 01443 281400)

Mr Paul Griffiths (Tel No. 01443 680609)



JOINT REPORT OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR AND THE TREASURER 2019/2020 GRANT BUDGET INFORMATION

Date written: 19th October 2018

Report author: Louise Blatchford (Senior Lead – Business and Operations) and Paul Griffiths (Head of Performance and Improvement)

Date of meeting where the report is being considered: 8th November 2018

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1.0 Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to:

- Provide Members with an overview of the grant funding position in Central South Consortium in 2018/19;
- Note that a subsequent report, detailing 2019/20 final grant allocations and the proposals for managing any future reductions in line with the business planning process, will be brought back to Joint Committee in December 2018.

2.0 Recommendations

- Note the contents of the report;
- Identify any areas which members would like to receive additional information;
- Write to Welsh Government to seek clarity regarding 2019/20 grant funding levels and request that the final grant funding envelope for Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant is made available in line with publication of the Local Government Revenue and Capital settlement announcements.

3.0 Background

3.1 Central South Consortium Financial Management

Internal Audit

Central South is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs and facilitating the effective exercise of those functions. One aspect of 'governance' is the system of internal control and RCT Council's Internal Audit Service undertake a series of audit reviews each year to independently assess the adequacy of this area from a financial administrative perspective. This work is undertaken in line with the Legal Agreement for the CSC. Following the Members review of the internal Audit reports in March 2018, it was agreed that there were no matters of governance or internal control that required any further action or attention.

External Audit Reviews

In line with financial management protocols, the Auditor General is responsible for providing an opinion on whether the financial statement give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Committee and it's income and expenditure for the year.

In both September 2017 as well as September 2018, the Wales Audit Office issued an unqualified audit report on the financial statements for periods 2016/17 as well as 2017/2018.

Estyn Comments (Estyn Inspection February 2016)

As part of the Inspection of the Consortium in September 2016, the following comments were made by Estyn:

'The Consortium has sound financial management processes in place, which allow for core funding and grant expenditure to be set robustly and monitored carefully. Cost are kept under regular and

tight review by consortium staff, education directors and joint committee. The consortium is managing the challenges of grant allocation well'

'The consortium is making good use of data to allocate resources against key priorities'

'The consortium has been proactive in identifying efficiencies by reducing both administration costs and duplication of work'

3.2 Central South Consortium Funding Model

The national guidance for regional working (published November 2015) outlines the vision of regional school improvement with Consortia working on behalf of Local Authorities to lead, orchestrate and co-ordinate the improvement of the performance of schools and the education of young people. The model outlines how challenge advisers form an integral part of the annual cycle of improvement.

The original document outlined the funding commitment from the Local Authorities to fulfil the national model. Three sources of funding were identified: Core Local Authority funding, dedicated grant funding from Welsh Government and generated income.

The report presented to Joint Committee in September 2018 focused on the core budget and at the request of Members at that meeting, this report will focus on the grant funding position.

Due to the rationalisation of grants, Central South Consortium is now in receipt of only two grants, namely the Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant (RCSIG) and the Pupil Development Grant.

Table 1: CSC Grant Funding 2018/19

Grant Line	2017-18	2018-19	Inc/(Dec)	%
	£	£	£	Change
Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant (RCSIG)	47,642,036	42,193,278	-5,448,758	-11.4%
Local Authority Match Funding	3,061,582	2,989,022	-72,560	-2.37%
TOTAL Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant	50,703,618	45,182,300	-5,521,318	-10.9%
Pupil Development Grant	30,517,400	31,405,050	887,650	2.9%
TOTAL GRANT FUNDING AVAILABLE	81,221,018	76,587,350	-4,633,668	-5.7%

4.0 Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant (RCSIG)

The main grant received by regional consortia to support national school improvement priorities during financial year 2018/19 is the Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant (RCSIG) – this grant now incorporates the former Education Improvement Grant (EIG) and Raising Schools Standards Grant (RSSG).

To summarise since the introduction of the EIG in 2015 (11 standalone grants amalgamated), the funding allocation of the new grant was cut by 10% when compared to the historic funding levels of the previous standalone grants. This has been followed by a further 5% cut in 2016/17, a 0.62% cut in 2017/18 and a 2.37% cut in 2018/19.

Information on the all Wales figures (2019/20 allocations) for the former EIG was published in the Final Settlement announcement made on the 19th December 2017. **Based upon unpublished indicative allocations provided by Welsh Government to each consortia Managing Director during autumn 2017/spring 2018, indicative allocations for CSC for 2019/20 are outlined in the table below:**

Table 2: Indicative Allocations for the EIG for schools' element of the RCSIG 2019/20

	2015 – 2016 £m	2016 – 2017 £m	2017 – 2018 £m	2018 – 2019 £m	2019 – 2020 <u>INDICATIVE</u> £m
All Wales	142.594	137.529	133.282	118.137	107.044
% Cut	10%	3.5%	3.09%	11.36%	9.39%
CSC	43.461	41.466	41.210	35.605	32.228
% Cut	10%	4.6%	0.62%	13.6%	9.5%
TOTAL Cut	16.060¹				

Points to Note:

- National allocations for the EIG for schools' element for 2019/20 were originally forecasted to reduce by £11.1m or 9.4%; and
- Welsh Government have since indicated to consortia that the overall cut applied to 2019/20 allocations will not be as severe as previously indicated in Autumn 2017. No written confirmation has been received.

4.1 Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant Allocations 2017 - 2019

Within the terms and conditions of the RCSIG, Welsh Government outline allocations against specific national priorities. A summary of the funding allocated for 2017/18 and 2018/19 is detailed in table 3.

Table 3: Allocations for RCSIG 2017/18 & 2018/19

Grant Line	2017-18 £	2018-19 £	Inc/(Dec) £	% Change
Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant (RCSIG)				

¹ Cut calculated based on 2014/15 grant funding allocations

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EIG - In Year Flexibilities EIG Element in Schools² 	n/a 41,210,496	1,000,859 35,605,775	1,000,859 -5,604,721	n/a -13.6%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership 	517,201	332,962	-184,239	-35.6%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curriculum and Assessment 	290,728	292,889	2,161	0.7%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High Quality Education Profession 	1,522,493	1,689,132	166,639	10.9%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-Improving system 	488,989	470,351	-18,638	-3.8%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research & Evaluation 	60,000	60,000	0	0.0%
Other (inc MFL, AfL, GCSE Support, Literacy & Numeracy)	1,410,417	648,045	-762,372	-54.1%
LiDW	150,462	137,015	-13,447	-8.9%
Pioneer Block Grant	1,991,250	1,956,250	-35,000	-1.8%
Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant (RCSIG)	47,642,036	42,193,278	-5,448,758	-11.4%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EIG Element in Schools (LA Match Funding) 	3,061,582	2,989,022	-72,560	-2.37%
Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant (RCSIG) & LA Match Funding	50,703,618	45,182,300	-5,521,318	-10.9%

4.2 In Year Flexibilities

As part of the RCSIG offer letter WG proposed an additional allocation to the Central South Consortium of c£1,001k. As part of the terms and conditions of the grant the additional one off funding was required to be used during the period 1st April 2018 to 31st August 2018 and proposals on the planned use of the grant were presented to Directors for consideration and approval on the 20th April 2018.

A breakdown of the purpose of the one off funding allocation is detailed in the table 4:

Table 4 – EIG In-Year Flexibilities

Funding Allocation	£
EIG Additionally - mitigate changes in 18-19	618,395
SRE (Sexual and Relationship Education) Resources support and training packages for teachers	50,000
Coding - Boost schools support under Cracking and Code Plan	25,000
More Able and talented (MAT)	145,364
PERMA (Positive Emotion, Engagement, Relationships, Meaning, Achievement) Wellbeing Project	150,000
Additional AoLE (Areas of Learning Experience) Digital - Science and Technology	12,100
TOTAL	1,000,859

Expenditure in relation to the award of grant funding has been profiled as follows:

² Total EIG Element in Schools funding available in 2018/19 is £38,594,797 (WG Grant plus LA Match Funding) compared to £44,272,078 in 2017/2018. This equates to a funding reduction of £5,677k or 12.8% in 2018/19.

- 48.8% of the grant allocated to schools to support the reform of the curriculum in Wales
- 42.9% retained for specific school initiatives (according to need)
- 8.3% centrally retained to fund salary costs associated with the initiatives

4.3 EIG Element to Schools

When planning activity and constructing the business plan / profiling expenditure, a clear commitment to passporting the majority of funding to schools, in line with agreed principles of apportionment (referenced in Section 4.3.1), is a key consideration. The terms and conditions of the RCSIG states that “...for the EIG element you will maintain a minimum 80% delegation”. No further guidance is provided with regards to a minimum delegation level for other elements of the funding allocation.

Historically, delegation rates to schools in CSC have been higher than in any other region in Wales, at 95% for 2017/18 and 93% in 2018/19. The reduction can be attributed to a number of factors including a reduction in the overall grant funding enveloped as well as the removal / cessation of specific grants that were directly delegated to schools for specific purposes.

Table 5 highlights the main areas of budget within this element of the grant.

Table 5: EIG Element of RCSIG 2018/19

EIG Element of the Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant	Budget 2018/19			
	Retained by CSC	Delegated to LAs	Retained initially for future delegation to Schools	Delegated to Schools
	£	£	£	£
Centrally retained funding including literacy and numeracy support, Welsh in Education and Foundation Phase provision				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centrally retained staffing 2,218,953 • Teach First 282,000 • Teacher Researchers 50,000 • Delegate Heads 50,000 • Accelerated Performance Leads 123,429 • Miscellaneous (i.e. Travel costs, Hire of Facilities etc.) 42,820 				
Funding held to support vulnerable schools			474,586	
School Improvement Groups			362,625	
Funding for specific school improvement initiatives (according to need)		125,383	297,500	
Delegated to local authorities for non-maintained settings		342,214		
Delegated to local authorities for 14-16 Provision		363,066		
Delegated to local authorities for administration of grant		67,024		
Delegated to schools				33,795,197
TOTAL GRANT (INCLUDING MATCH FUNDING)	2,767,202	897,687	1,134,711	33,795,197
% Delegated to Schools/LAs	92.8			

4.3.1 School EIG Allocations

Previously Directors and Joint Committee have approved the principles for calculating the delegated amounts to schools. On the 2nd February 2018 Directors considered and approved the following principles of apportionment for financial year 2018/19:-

- A minimum 2.37% cut to be apportioned across all 2017/18 EIG funding commitments going forward into 2018/19 financial year;
- Continue to delegate as much of the EIG as possible to schools;
- Continue to apportion funding for 14 – 16 learning pathways funding directly to schools;
- Delegating funding for non-maintained settings within Foundation Phase so that each LA receive a fixed amount per setting with an additional allocation per setting for training;
- Continue to retain central funding to support the requirements for induction and HLTA;
- Continue to retain central funding for literacy / numeracy / Welsh & wider curriculum support;
- Continue the SLA between the consortia and local authorities for administration / finance functions
- Allocate EIG using current PLASC data and provide schools with an indicative allocation (prior to the data being verified) in March with final allocations confirmed to schools in June/July; and
- Protection mechanism (on a sliding scale) applied to the EIG formula that prevented significant winners and losers to cease on the 31st March 2018.

The Consortium continues to retain an element of the EIG funding to support the central teams but this has been reduced to allow greater delegation to schools. In addition, the Consortium retain additional funding for the support for schools requiring red or amber intervention support and for the continued development of the School Improvement Groups (SIGs) of the Central South Wales Challenge. Both forms part of the overall delegation to schools.

4.3.2 Common Regional Formula

The remaining balance of the grant funding allocation is delegated to schools as a single grant using a common formula across the consortia - the funding is distributed based on a lump sum allocation per school and a pupil allocation based on current PLASC data.

Additionally, and in line with the terms and conditions of the grant, nursery and primary schools receive funding based on a pupil allocation to work towards the delivery of the foundation phase staff to learner ratios.

4.3.3 Protection Mechanism

When the combined grant and the common regional formula was introduced in 2015 a protection mechanism was incorporated to prevent significant winners and losers. This protection mechanism was removed in 2018/19.

4.4 Leadership

Actions supporting the development of inspirational leaders working collaboratively to raise standards which includes developing a pool of Welsh leaders of education, Future Leadership and professional networks. Expenditure in relation to the award of grant funding has been profiled as follows:

- 0% of the grant delegated to schools
- 79.3% retained for specific school initiatives (according to need) any footnote to be added
- 20.7% centrally retained to fund salary costs associated with initiatives

4.5 Curriculum & Assessment

Action to support the Welsh Government's aspirations for a broad, balanced and inspiring curriculum with a clear focus on assessment for learning to support every learner. Expenditure in relation to the award of grant funding has been profiled as follows:

- 0% of the grant delegated to schools
- 100% retained for specific school initiatives (according to need)
- 0% centrally retained to fund salary costs associated with initiatives

4.6 High Quality Education Profession

Action to support the Welsh Government's aspirations for an excellent workforce equipped with the theoretical and practical knowledge and skills to develop every learner's full potential. Expenditure in relation to the award of grant funding has been profiled as follows:

- 0% of the grant delegated to schools
- 89.1% retained for specific school initiatives (according to need)
- 10.9% centrally retained to fund salary costs associated with initiatives

4.7 Self-Improving System

Action to extend the depth and impact of collaborative working and develop capacity in consortia to support the Welsh Government's ambitions for a self-improving system; a system in which all schools actively support themselves and each other to improve, to raise standards, reducing variability between schools and classes, ensuring consistency across Wales.

Action also includes consortia working to ensure all schools are engaged in partnership working, including as formal federations, with other schools and wider partners, in the interest of sharing best practice, resources and expertise. As part of this the consortium will support delivery of robust, effective federation of schools. The consortium will extend the impact and depth of collaborative working. Expenditure in relation to the award of grant funding has been profiled as follows:

- 0% of the grant delegated to schools
- 90.5% retained for specific school initiatives (according to need)
- 9.5% centrally retained to fund salary costs associated with initiatives

4.8 Research & Evaluation

Action to support evidence based approaches to raising standards, the Funding will support enhanced research and evaluation capacity building within the Consortium linked to Higher Education Institutions and engaging with Welsh Government Knowledge and Analytical Services as appropriate. All completed research and evaluation projects will be published and shared across all four regional education consortia and the Welsh Government.

Expenditure in relation to the award of grant funding has been profiled as follows:

- 0% of the grant delegated to schools
- 100% retained for specific school initiatives (according to need)
- 0% centrally retained to fund salary costs associated with initiatives

4.9 Other (including Assessment for Learning, Modern Foreign Languages and GCSE)

Expenditure in relation to the award of grant funding has been profiled as follows:

- 0% of the grant delegated to schools
- 79.4% retained for specific school initiatives (according to need)
- 20.6% centrally retained to fund salary costs associated with initiatives

4.10 LiDW

Action to support practitioners in schools to develop their confidence and competence in using the range of digital resources and tools available through the Learning in Digital Wales (LiDW) programme. Expenditure in relation to the award of grant funding has been profiled as follows:

- 0% of the grant delegated to schools
- 59.3% retained for specific school initiatives (according to need)
- 40.7% centrally retained to fund salary costs associated with initiatives

4.11 Pioneer Block Grant

Action to support the work of the Pioneer Schools Network, providing expertise, organisational support and advice to Pioneer Schools and Welsh Government, relating to the development of the new Curriculum, Professional Learning and implementation of the Digital Competence Framework.

Funding allows the release of lead practitioners from Pioneer Schools to contribute to the development of the new Curriculum, Professional Learning and implementation of the Digital Competence Framework.

Ensure the timely release of the necessary funds to Pioneer Schools in line with the new Curriculum, Professional Learning and Digital Pioneers specifications and Realising Successful Futures – Core Brief.

Support and contribute to the national curriculum design and development process - including the co-facilitation of the AoLE groups with Welsh Government.

Work at a national level across consortia regions, in partnership with pioneers and the wider school network to design, develop and deliver a National Approach to Professional Learning in preparation for the New Curriculum. Expenditure in relation to the award of grant funding has been profiled as follows:

- 28.1% of the grant delegated to schools
- 71.9% retained for specific school initiatives (as directed by Welsh Government)
- 0% centrally retained to fund salary costs associated with initiatives

5.0 Pupil Development Grant

Welsh Government confirmed on 20th April 2018 there would be an alternative approach to the PDG allocation for financial years 2018/19 and 2019/20 and subsequently the following changes were implemented into the grant:

- Early Years PDG (EYPDG) increasing from £600 to £700;
- A simplified formula for the allocation of the EYPDG;
- Use of 2016 PLASC data instead of the latest data available;
- All schools will receive a minimum PDG allocation equivalent to one learner;
- Expanded definition of the PDG – to provide schools with the flexibility to support learners who have been e-FSM in the previous two years; and
- Guaranteed funding allocation levels for the next two financial years (2018/19 and 2019/20) – allowing schools stability to plan ahead.

Table 6: Pupil Development Grant 2018/19

Grant Line	2017-18	2018-19	Inc/(Dec)	%
	£	£	£	Change
Pupil Development Grant (PDG) -				
• Mainstream	25,784,150	25,785,300	1,150	0.0%
• CLA	1,523,750	1,675,550	151,800	10.0%
• Early Years	2,755,200	3,621,100	865,900	31.4%
• PRUs/EOTAS	404,300	223,100	-181,200	-44.8%
• Attainment Advisers	50,000	100,000	50,000	100.0%
Pupil Development Grant (PDG)	30,517,400	31,405,050	887,650	2.9%

Following discussion at the Budget Advisory Group meeting held on the 27th April 2018 (and subsequent discussions with Directors), it was agreed that CSC would seek further clarification from WG particularly around expectations / submission of supporting plans for new schools and any opportunity that maybe available to support additional funding for “growing” schools. A business case was submitted identifying any shortfall for exceptional circumstances this included cases where

schools may experience a negative impact as a consequence of the PLASC 2016 figures being significantly different to PLASC 2017.

As a result of the Business Case Welsh Government responded with a three stage process in order to smooth out the issues identified. Award of Funding at the time of writing this report is yet to be issued by Welsh Government³.

6.0 Governance Arrangements for Accepting Awards of Funding

The Legal Agreement for Central South Consortium was signed in April 2015 by all member authorities and sets out the provision for a regional school improvement service. The agreement outlines the financial contributions of the member authorities as well as the treatment of grants from Welsh Government.

As host authority Rhondda Cynon Taf act as 'banker authority' and under the terms of the grant agreements will be responsible for accepting the terms and conditions of grant and putting in place arrangements to distribute the funding, as determined by the Joint Committee, within the Consortium.

The method of apportionment of each grant varies depending on its nature, its intended recipients, its purposes and the associated terms and conditions.

For each grant the following process is adopted:

- The Consortium prepares a proposed method of distribution taking into account all relevant criteria.
- Director of Education (or equivalent) of each authority approves the basis of apportionment at the Directors Group of the Central South Joint Education Service. This ensures appropriate and effective use of grant funding to target school improvement equitably across each of the five authorities' areas
- A report detailing the basis and reasons for the method adopted shall be presented to the Joint Committee for approval.

However, and to ensure the Consortium is able to react in a timely manner to grant awards, the Joint Committee agreed (18th February 2014) to devolve responsibility for the approval of grants to the Directors Group where the Joint Committee meeting cycle does not align with the grant timetables.

At a subsequent Joint Committee meeting in September 2018 it was agreed by Members that this process would continue but that members would receive the proposals for the delegation of awards of funding prior to the Directors meetings to ensure opportunity for direct discussion between Directors and Members.

7.0 Business Planning:

³ Correct as at 19th October 2018

The business planning process begins in the Autumn Term with the identification of the regional priorities through self-evaluation, analysis of data and engagement with all stakeholders. An analysis of the priorities identified through this process was presented to Joint Committee in December 2017.

The business plan outlines the resources available to the Consortium and provides detail of the Education Improvement Grant element of the Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant as well as the Pupil Development Grant.

In particular, there is a breakdown of the core budget as well as the Education Improvement Grant element of the Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant.

The business plan in Central South Consortium for 2018/19 was developed in line with the Welsh Government publication 'Education in Wales: Our National Mission' as well as the priorities from the region. The objectives in the 2018/19 business plan are:

- Developing a high-quality education profession;
- To develop inspirational leaders and to facilitate their working collaboratively to raise standards;
- To develop strong and inclusive schools committed to excellence, equity and well-being; and
- To develop robust assessment, evaluation and accountability arrangements supporting a self-improving system

7.1 Operational Plans

Each of the objectives within the business plan is developed into an operational plan. This is led by the senior lead supported by a drive team consisting of members of the senior leadership team. The operational plans detail the success criteria and monitoring arrangements for activity within the plans to meet the overriding objectives. These plans are developed with all stakeholders and shared with Members at Joint Committee meetings.

Progress with the implementation of the operational plans are presented to Joint Committee members following the internal impact review meetings between the drive team and the Managing Director and Senior Lead for Business & Operations. The most recent report being presented to Joint Committee in September 2018. In addition, plans are scrutinised by Welsh Government and form the basis of the Challenge and Review session with Welsh Government officials.

In order to undertake activity agreed within the business plan, funding is profiled ensuring terms and conditions are met as well as any additional 'red lines' agreed with policy officials from Welsh Government. As can be seen from the table below, the majority of the business plan (>97%) is funded from external grant funded streams.

Table 7: Business Plan 2018/19 financial model

Central South Consortium Business Plan Objectives	Business Plan			Other Grant Expenditure ⁴	TOTAL
	Core	Grant	TOTAL		
	£	£	£	£	£
Objective 1: Developing a high quality education profession.	8,600	2,253,946	2,262,546	36,935,974	39,198,520
Objective 2: To develop inspirational leaders and to facilitate their working collaboratively to raise standards.	16,000	317,075	333,075	1,333,592	1,666,667
Objective 3: To develop strong and inclusive schools committed to excellence, equity and well-being.	126,428	3,525,245	3,651,673	31,494,458	35,146,131
Objective 4: To develop robust assessment, evaluation and accountability arrangements supporting a self-improving system.	42,000	356,000	398,000	371,810	769,810
TOTAL	193,028	6,452,266	6,645,294	70,135,834	76,781,128

8.0 Implementation issues – cost, timescale etc.

CSC Grant Funding Pressures 2019/20

There remains some uncertainty surrounding the Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant for 2019/20 and 2019/20. The final settlement published on the 19th December 2017, included a cut to EIG of £15.1m in 2018/19 with a further indicative cut of £11m in 2019/20 as outlined in Table 8 below provided by Welsh Government.

Regional allocations for EIG for individual allocations for CSC are included in Table 9.

⁴ Other Grant Expenditure of £70,136k includes:-

- £65,476k (93.4%) applicable to EIG element for Schools & PDG delegated to LAs/Schools.
- £1,492k (2.1%) applicable to CSWC Model.
- £325k (0.4%) applicable to LiDW and Professional Standards for assisting Teaching.
- £2,843k (4.1%) applicable to CSC Strategic Team salary.

Table 8: Breakdown of Education Improvement Grant (Provided by Welsh Government) excluding match funding

	2017 – 2018	2018 – 2019	2019 – 2020
	£	£	£
Baseline	£133,282,000	£133,282,000	£118,137,000
Prioritisation	N/A	-£13,145,000	-£9,093,000
Reduction	N/A	-£2,000,000	-£2,000,000
Total (WG)	£133,282,000	£118,137,000	£107,044,000

Table 9: CSC Allocations of EIG 2017-2020

	2017 – 2018	2018 – 2019	2019 – 2020
	£	£	£
CSC	41,210,496	35,605,775	32,228,191

Further papers will be brought back to Joint Committee when clarity is received regarding allocations for 2019/20 with proposals for managing any future cuts in line with the business planning process.

9.0 Background Papers

- CSC Business Plan 2018/19
- Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant Terms and Conditions & Appendix
- Pupil Development Grant Draft Terms and Conditions
- Operational Plans 2018/19 & Monitoring Reports

APPENDIX: OBJECTIVE 1 CSC BUSINESS PLAN

Objective 1 : Developing a high quality education profession		BUDGET		
		CORE £	GRANT £	TOTAL £
Objective 1.1 Adoption of the new professional teaching and learning standards	1.1a	3,600	47,500	51,100
Objective 1.2 Develop a coherent and comprehensive professional learning offer.	1.2a	5,000	188,000	193,000
	1.3c	0	19,040	19,040
Objective 1.4 Build capacity and support for increasing knowledge, understanding and skills with regards to Welsh Language and culture in light of the national commitment to achieve one million speakers by 2050	1.4a	0	623,264	623,264
Objective 1.5 Improve learning, teaching and assessment, focusing on pedagogy in the classroom	1.5a	0	1,045,645	1,045,645
Objective 1.6 Work with HEIs to develop ITE models in partnership with schools	1.6a	0	282,000	282,000
	1.6b	0	48,497	48,497
TOTAL		8,600	2,253,946	2,262,546

APPENDIX: OBJECTIVE 2 CSC BUSINESS PLAN

Objective 2: To develop inspirational leaders and to facilitate their working collaboratively to raise standards		BUDGET		
		CORE £	GRANT £	TOTAL £
Objective 2.1 Support, improve and develop school leadership capacity and effectiveness	2.1a	0	96,375.00	96,375.00
	2.1b	0	18,000.00	18,000.00
	2.1d	0	15,500.00	15,500.00
	2.1e	0	12,000.00	12,000.00
	2.1f	0	5,000.00	5,000.00
	2.1i	0	20,000.00	20,000.00
Objective 2.2 Consult and develop future collaborative improvement models led by school leaders building on existing developments	2.2a	0	20,700.00	20,700.00
	2.2c	0	42,500.00	42,500.00
Objective 2.3 Support, improve and develop school governance.	2.3c	16,000.00	16,000.00	32,000.00
	2.3e	0	5,000.00	5,000.00
	2.3g	0	10,000.00	10,000.00
Objective 2.4 Develop further support for new school leadership models.	2.4d	0	40,000.00	40,000.00
Objective 2.5 Consider how HR service for schools can be most effective across the region	2.5c	0	16,000.00	16,000.00
TOTAL		16,000.00	317,075.00	333,075.00

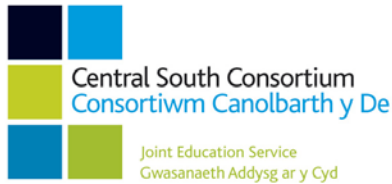
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APPENDIX: OBJECTIVE 3 CSC BUSINESS PLAN

Objective 3: To develop strong and inclusive schools committed to excellence, equity and well-being		BUDGET		
		CORE £	GRANT £	TOTAL £
Objective 3.1 Ensure the Professional Learning offer includes provision to develop practitioner awareness of MAT and Closing the Gap. Ensure CSC staff have the necessary understanding on CLA and safeguarding.	3.1a	1,000.00	145,364.00	146,364.00
	3.1b	0	223,100.00	223,100.00
Objective 3.2 To work with partners on effective measurements of well-being and attitudes to learning	3.2a	0	150,000.00	150,000.00
	3.2b	1,000.00	0	1,000.00
Objective 3.3 Develop CSC strategy that links with that of LAs to ensure practitioners are aware of ACE	3.3a	0	1,600,066.00	1,600,066.00
Objective 3.4 To develop CSC staff awareness of the ALN Bill (implications for vulnerable groups) and monitor progress of groups of learners with a particular focus on reducing the attainment gap	3.4a	1,000.00	0	1,000.00
Objective 3.5 Ensure accelerated progress in schools causing concern	3.5a	123,428.00	727,428.00	850,856.00
	3.5c	0	68,500.00	68,500.00
Objective 3.6 Develop and coordinate the support available to schools in their provision for humanities, expressive arts and wellbeing	3.6a	0	15,000.00	15,000.00
Objective 3.7 Ensure that the needs of schools are identified and met effectively.	3.7a	0	301,600.00	301,600.00
	3.7b	0	11,000.00	11,000.00
	3.7c	0	283,187.00	283,187.00
		126,428.00	3,525,245.00	3,651,673.00

APPENDIX: OBJECTIVE 4 CSC BUSINESS PLAN

Objective 4: To develop robust assessment, evaluation and accountability arrangements supporting a self-improving system		BUDGET		
		CORE £	GRANT £	TOTAL £
Objective 4.1 Agree a longer-term model of assessment and evaluation for schools that will clearly identify what schools are accountable for and encourage all schools to pursue the success of all learners in our changing context, inc PISA and Post 16	4.1a	24,000.00	28,500.00	52,500.00
	4.1c	5,000.00	6,000.00	11,000.00
	4.1f	0	45,500.00	45,500.00
Objective 4.2 To continue to develop the central South Wales challenge models in response to research and evaluation of their own effectiveness	4.2a	0	100,000.00	100,000.00
	4.2b	8,000.00	0	8,000.00
	4.2c	0	50,000.00	50,000.00
	4.2f	5,000.00	0	5,000.00
Objective 4.3 Strengthen the effectiveness of the existing national model governance structure and work with Welsh Government to refine it	4.3a	0	10,000.00	10,000.00
	4.3c	0	2,000.00	2,000.00
Objective 4.4 Ensure that CSC and its schools embed the principles of school as learning organisations	4.4a	0	42,500.00	42,500.00
	4.4b	0	12,500.00	12,500.00
	4.4d	0	59,000.00	59,000.00
		42,000.00	356,000.00	398,000.00



**CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM
REPORT FOR JOINT COMMITTEE**

8TH NOVEMBER 2018

JOINT EDUCATION SERVICE

PUPIL DEVELOPMENT GRANT 2018/19 – GRANT AWARD OF FUNDING APPROVAL

Author: Louise Blatchford – Senior Lead – Business and Operations

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide Joint Committee with an update with regards to the award of funding from Welsh Government for 2018/19 financial year.
- 1.2 To seek Joint Committee's approval to the use thereof.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Consider and note the award of grant funding;
- 2.2 Approve the use and distribution of grant funding in accordance with the terms and conditions of the award;
- 2.3 Recommend that the Lead Chief Executive and S151 Officer approves the receipt of grant funding.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 As host authority Rhondda Cynon Taf act as 'banker authority', and under the terms of the grant agreements will be responsible for accepting the terms and conditions of grant and putting in place arrangements to distribute the funding, as determined by the Joint Committee, within the Consortium.

3.2 The method of apportionment of each grant will vary depending on its nature, its intended recipients, its purposes and the associated terms and conditions. For each grant the following process shall be adopted:

- The Consortium shall prepare a proposed method of distribution taking into account all relevant criteria;
- The Director of Education (or equivalent) of each authority shall approve the basis of apportionment at the Directors Group of the Central South Joint Education Service. This will ensure appropriate and effective use of grant funding to target school improvement equitably across each of the five authorities areas;
- A report detailing the basis and reasons for the method adopted shall be presented to the Joint Committee for approval.

4. CURRENT POSITIONS

4.1 The total award of funding for the Pupil Development Grant (previously known as the Pupil Deprivation Grant) for the financial year 2018/19 is £31,601,321.

4.2 From April 2018, the PDG has been allocated to support:-

- Learners who are eligible for free school meals (PLASC January 2016) and who are educated in maintained schools;
- Eligible learners who are singly-registered in pupil referral units (PRU's) and education other than at school (EOTAS);
- Eligible learners in early years settings where the Foundation Phase is delivered;
- Children Looked after (CLA), and former CLA who have been adopted from care or who are subject to a special guardianship or residence order aged 3-15
- Employment of PDG Strategic Adviser.

4.3 The total award of funding includes £196,231 which is an additional funding allocation made to CSC in line with the Welsh Government adopted 3 stage approach.

4.4 The funding is weighted according to category and age of pupils, details of which can be found in the table below:-

	Level of funding per pupil £
PDG Pupils aged 5-15	1,150
EYPDG Pupils aged 3-4	700
EOTAS Pupils aged 5-15	1,150
EOTAS Pupils aged 3-4 to include Non maintained settings	700
PDG CLA Pupils aged 3-15	1,150

4.5 For 2018/19 the apportionment of funding is as follows:-

	PDG CLA	PDG Strategic Adviser	Delegated Directly to Schools	Centrally Retained LA Level for EOTAS and Non maintained settings	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Bridgend	240,987		4,300,450	7,700	4,549,137
Cardiff	360,578		11,831,521	169,500	12,361,599
Merthyr Tydfil	74,957		1,980,325	26,100	2,081,382
RCT	366,686		8,512,250	57,650	8,936,586
Vale of Glam	205,352		2,916,225	24,050	3,145,627
CSC	75,484	100,000			175,484
To be Allocated	351,506				351,506
TOTAL	1,675,550	100,000	29,540,771	285,000	31,601,321

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Welsh Government have compiled the award of funding based on January 2016 PLASC. Funding for Children Looked After (CLA) is based on 2017 Wales Children Receiving Care and Support Census.
- 5.2 Additional funding has been awarded to new schools, schools with a planned increase in capacity and those schools who had a minimum of 5 eFSM learners; that were above 15% eFSM in 2017; and had an increase of at least 3 eFSM learners over 2015-2017 when compared to 2014-2016, funded at a level of 50% of that increase.
- 5.3 Subject to Joint Committee's consideration of the use and distribution of grant funding will be released to local authorities for distribution to respective schools.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Christopher Lee
Group Director Corporate & Frontline Services and Deputy Chief Executive
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
The Pavilions
Cambrian Park
Clydach Vale
Tonypany
CF40 2XX

18 October 2018

Dear Mr Lee

Award of Funding in relation to The Pupil Development Grant 2018-19

1. Award of Funding

- (a) We are pleased to inform you that your Application has been successful and funding of up to **£31,601,321** (“the Funding”) is awarded to you for the Purposes (as defined in Condition 4(a)).
- (b) We have analysed your Pupil Development Grant (PDG) Support Plan which was submitted as your Application for Funding on 31 May 2018. The Welsh Government is content to support your funding proposals on the basis of your application. It would be helpful to have further clarity on points of detail to aid the Welsh Government’s monitoring of the expenditure against the support plan. At Annex A is your submitted support plan with comments which must be addressed before the first claim is made.
- (c) The Funding relates to the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 and must be claimed in full by 8 March 2019 otherwise any unclaimed part of the Funding will cease to be available to you.
- (d) If you have any queries in relation to this award of Funding or the Conditions please contact the Welsh Government Official who will be happy to assist you.

Allocations

Your consortium's allocation is based on PLASC data for 2016 using year groups. For 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 your allocation to support these learners will be:

	Number of eligible learners	Allocation £
Learners eligible for free school meals (e-FSM)	22,421	25,784,150
Learners in early years settings (EYPDG)	5,173	3,621,100
Learners eligible for FSM in PRUs and EOTAS	194	223,100

	Number of eligible schools	Allocation £
Schools with no eFSM learners	1	1,150

Your allocation for looked after children is based on 2017 Wales Children Receiving Care and Support Census. For 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 your allocation to support these learners will be:

	Number of eligible learners	Allocation £
Looked after children aged 3-15	1,457	1,675,550

New Schools	£196,271
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PDG Strategic Adviser	£100,000
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2. Statutory authority

- (a) This award of Funding is made on and subject to the Conditions and under the authority of the Cabinet Secretary for Education, one of the Welsh Ministers, acting pursuant to sections 70 and 71(1) of the Government of Wales Act 2006 and section 14-17 of the Education Act 2002.

3. Interpreting these Conditions

Any reference in these Conditions to:

'you', 'your' is to
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Lead Banker Authority
The Pavilions
Cambrian Park
Clydach Vale
Tonypandy
CF40 2XX

'Welsh Government Official' is to

Tania Nicholson
Support for Learners Division
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff CF10 3NQ

Tel: 03000 259068

Email: Tania.nicholson@gov.wales

or such other Welsh Government official as we may notify you.

'Project Manager' is to the PDG Strategic Adviser and PDG-LAC Lead Coordinator

Siriol Burford
Central South Consortium
Valley's Innovation Centre
Navigation Park
Mountain Ash
Abercynon
CF45 4SN

'Application' is to your Pupil Development Grant Support Plan submitted 31 May 2018.

'Conditions' is to the terms and conditions set out in this letter;

'Costs Incurred' is to the cost of goods and services you have received regardless of whether you have paid for them by the date of your claim;

'Notification Event' is to any of the events listed in Schedule 2;

'Payment Profile' is to the payment profile set out in Schedule 3;

'Personnel' is to your management/employees and suppliers or any other person appointed or engaged by you in relation to the Purposes;

'Schedule' is to the schedules attached to this letter;

'State Aid Rules' is to the rules set out in Articles 107 to 109 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (or in those Articles that may succeed Articles 107 to 109), secondary legislation such as frameworks, guidelines and block exemptions produced by the European Commission derived from Articles 107 to 109, case law of the European Courts and decisions of the European Commission regarding the application of Articles 107 to 109; and

any reference to any legislation whether domestic, EU or international law will include all amendments to and substitutions and re-enactments of that legislation in force from time to time.

4. What you must use the Funding for

- (a) You must use the Funding solely for the purposes set out in Schedule 1 (the "**Purposes**").
- (b) You must achieve the targets and outcomes set out in your Pupil Development Grant Support Plan.
- (c) Any change to the Purposes or Targets will require our written consent which must be obtained from us in advance of implementing any change. Please note that we are not obliged to give our consent but we will consider all reasonable written requests.
- (d) You must not use any part of the Funding for: (1) party political purposes; (2) the promotion of particular secular, religious or political views; (3) gambling; (4) pornography; (5) offering sexual services; (6) purchasing capital equipment (other than as specified in the Purposes); (7) your legal fees in relation to this letter; (8) Costs Incurred or costs incurred and defrayed by you in the delivery of the Purposes prior to the period referred to in Condition 1 (b); (9) any kind of illegal activities; or (10) any kind of activity which in our opinion could bring us into disrepute.

5. Funding pre-conditions

- (a) We will not pay any of the Funding to you until you have provided us with the following information and documentation:
 - (i) this letter signed by you;
 - (ii) documentary evidence that the signatories who have signed this letter on your behalf are duly authorised to do so;

- (iii) documentary evidence that you have appropriate systems in place to undertake due diligence before utilising any part of the Funding to provide a grant to or procure any goods or services from third parties;
 - (iv) documentary evidence that you have put in place all staff and other resources detailed in the Application as required to commence and complete the Purposes;
 - (v) a Pupil Development Grant Support Plan
 - (vi) agreement that the Pupil Development Grant will be delegated to schools and early years maintained settings in its entirety, with the exception of the looked after children (LAC) element and the EOTAS element to be paid to the regional consortia to manage and optimise effectiveness across the region; and the Early Years non maintained settings which is delegated to the local authority. You are expected to ensure:
 - funding (as it is allocated based on the number of pupils who are eligible for free school meals) will be used to improve outcomes for pupils eligible for free school meals and reduce the difference in attainment between those eligible for free school meals and those who are not;
 - funding (as it is allocated based on the number of learners who are LAC) will be used to improve outcomes for pupils who are LAC, adopted from care or subject to Special Guardianship Orders and reduce the difference in attainment between this cohort and their peers;
 - that the element of the grant allocated for LAC learners will be retained and managed centrally by the consortium;
 - that the element of the grant allocated for EOTAS and PRU learners will be retained and managed centrally by the consortium; and
 - management of the funding for new schools following the bidding process in July 2018.
- (b) Where you are required to provide information and documentation to us as evidence that you have satisfied a particular pre-condition, Condition or in support of a claim, the information and documentation must be in all respects acceptable to us. We reserve the right to reject any information and documentation which is for any reason not acceptable to us.

6. How to claim the Funding

- (a) The Funding will be paid to you in arrears as detailed in the Payment Profile.
- (b) You must claim the Funding in accordance with the dates set out in the Payment Profile. You must claim the Funding promptly. We

reserve the right to withdraw any part of the Funding that you do not claim promptly.

- (c) You must submit your claims for payment of Funding to the Welsh Government Official.
- (d) You must use our current claim pro-forma (which is available from the Welsh Government Official) and attach the following information and documentation to each claim specified in the Payment Profile:
 - i) confirmation that you have appropriate systems in place to undertake due diligence before utilising any part of the Funding to provide a grant to or procure any goods or services from third parties.
- (e) We will aim to pay all valid claims as soon as possible and typically within 28 days.

7. Your general obligations to us

You must:

- (a) safeguard the Funding against fraud generally and, in particular, fraud on the part of your Personnel and notify us immediately if you have reason to suspect that any fraud within your organisation whether or not it relates to the Funding has occurred or is occurring or is likely to occur. You must also participate in such fraud prevention initiatives as we may require from time to time.
- (b) comply with all applicable domestic, EU or international laws or regulations or official directives;
- (c) maintain adequate insurances to cover against the risks which may arise in connection with any property or any activity undertaken in delivery of the Purposes. We reserve the right to require you to provide proof of your insurance;
- (d) put in place and maintain appropriate systems to undertake due diligence before utilising any part of the Funding to provide a grant to or procure any goods or services from third parties;
- (e) co-operate fully with the Welsh Government Official and with any other employee of the Welsh Government or consultant appointed by us to monitor your use of the Funding and your compliance with these Conditions;
- (f) inform us immediately if any of the declarations made in Condition 8 is incorrect in any respect or, if repeated at any time with reference to the facts and circumstances then existing, would be incorrect.

8. Declarations

You declare that:

- (a) you have the power to enter into and to perform the obligations set out in these Conditions and you have taken all necessary action to

authorise the entry into and performance of the obligations under these Conditions;

- (b) no litigation or arbitration is current or pending or, so far as you are aware, threatened, which have or could have an adverse effect on your ability to perform and comply with any of these Conditions;
- (c) the information contained in your Application is complete, true and accurate;
- (d) you have disclosed to us all material facts or circumstances which need to be disclosed to enable us to obtain a true and correct view of your business and affairs (both current and prospective) or which ought to be provided to any person who is considering providing funding to you; and
- (e) you have discussed and agreed the Targets with us and you are confident that they are realistic and achievable.

9. Notification Events and their consequences

- (a) You must notify us immediately if a Notification Event has occurred or is likely to occur but we also reserve the right to notify you where we believe a Notification Event has occurred or is likely to occur.
- (b) We will either (i) notify you that we consider that the Notification Event is not capable of remedy or (ii) if we consider that the Notification Event is capable of being remedied seek to discuss the Notification Event with you with a view to agreeing a course of action to be taken to address the Notification Event.
- (c) We will be entitled to take any of the actions listed in Condition 9(d) if:
 - (i) despite our reasonable efforts we have been unable to discuss the Notification Event with you; or
 - (ii) we notify you that the Notification Event is not capable of remedy; or
 - (iii) a course of action to address the Notification Event is not agreed with you; or
 - (iv) a course of action to address the Notification Event is agreed with you but you fail to follow it, or any conditions attached to it are not met (including without limitation the timescale for such course of action); or
 - (v) the course of action fails to remedy the Notification Event to our satisfaction.
- (d) If any of the circumstances set out in Condition 9(c) occurs we may by notice to you:
 - (i) withdraw the award of Funding; and/or
 - (ii) require you to repay all or part of the Funding immediately; and/or
 - (iii) suspend or cease all further payment of Funding; and/or

- (iv) make all further payments of Funding subject to such conditions as we may specify; and/or
 - (v) deduct all amounts owed to us under these Conditions from any other funding that we have awarded or may award to you; and/or
 - (vi) exercise any other rights against you which we may have in respect of the Funding.
- (e) All repayments of Funding must be made to us within 28 days of the date of our demand. If applicable, you must pay interest on any overdue repayments (on a compound basis) in accordance with the State Aid Rules.

10. Monitoring requirements

You must:

- (a) provide us with such documents, information and reports which we may reasonably require from time to time for us to monitor your compliance with the Conditions including:
 - i) a completed Lead Authority Allocation Certificate by 31 December 2019; and
 - ii) ensuring progress on this grant is reported to the Welsh Government via the Challenge and Review reporting mechanism. This will be an exception report on progress to date aligned to Our national mission: Education in Wales and include:
 - setting challenging targets; and
 - monitoring and evaluating the impact of the funding, risks and issues.
 - iii) Meet with the Welsh Government Official and such other of our representatives as we may from time to time reasonably require. Specifically, half termly joint meetings with consortia PDG strategic advisers and LAC co-ordinators, along with the Raising Attainment Advocate, to discuss how you work with schools to ensure effective use is made of the PDG to improve outcomes for learners who are eligible for free school meals or looked after children.
 - iv) In particular we want to know how you will ensure schools:
 - adopt a more equitable approach to funding to ensure that greater investment is made at KS3;
 - continue to work with both maintained and non-maintained early years providers to ensure they are making effective use of the grant, whilst strengthening your links with the non-maintained settings;
 - manage and optimise the effectiveness for EOTAS learners across the region; and
 - manage and optimise the effectiveness for looked after children across the region.

- (b) ensure that the Project Manager (or such other person as we may agree) together with any other person we may require attends all meetings with the Welsh Government Official.

11. Audit Requirements

- (a) You must:
 - (i) maintain clear accounting records identifying all income and expenditure in relation to the Purposes;
 - (ii) without charge, permit any officer or officers of the Welsh Government, Wales Audit Office or European Commission at any reasonable time and on reasonable notice being given to you to visit your premises and/or to inspect any of your activities and/or to examine and take copies of your books of account and such other documents or records howsoever stored as in such officer's reasonable view may relate in any way to your use of the Funding. This undertaking is without prejudice and subject to any other statutory rights and powers exercisable by the Welsh Government, Wales Audit Office or the European Commission or any officer, servant or agent of any of the above;
 - (iii) retain this letter and all original documents relating to the Funding until we inform you in writing that it is safe to destroy them;
 - (iv) ensure that the Funding is subject to internal local authority audit review for 2018-2019 and provide us with an audit certificate, reporting any limitations in the assurance provided, in accordance with the requirements set out in Schedule 4
- (b) Under paragraph 17 of Schedule 8 to the Government of Wales Act 2006 the Auditor General for Wales has extensive rights of access to documents and information relating to monies provided by the Welsh Government. He and his officials have the power to require relevant persons who control or hold documents to give any assistance, information and explanation that they may require; and to require those persons to attend before them for such a purpose. The Auditor General and his staff may exercise this right at all reasonable times.

12. Third party obligations

- (a) Nothing in the Conditions imposes any liability on us in respect of any liability incurred by you to any third party (including, without limit, employees and contractors).
- (b) You must indemnify us against any liabilities, claims, proceedings, demands, losses, costs and expenses suffered or incurred by us directly or indirectly arising as a result of or in connection with any

failure by you to perform fully or in part any obligation you may have to a third party.

13. Intellectual property rights and publicity

- (a) Nothing in these Conditions transfers to us any rights in any intellectual property created by you as a result of the Purposes.
- (b) You must acknowledge our support in relation to the Purposes. Such acknowledgement(s) must be in a form approved by us and must comply with the Welsh Government's branding guidelines.
- (c) You must provide the Welsh Government Official with details of all the acknowledgement(s) referred to in Condition 13(b) for our approval before any such acknowledgements are used and you may not use such acknowledgments without our prior written approval. We will endeavour to respond to all written requests for approval within 10 working days.
- (d) You agree that from the date of this letter until 5 years from the date of the final payment of Funding we may include details about your organisation and business, the Funding and the Purposes in Welsh Government promotional materials and you further agree to cooperate with our reasonable requests to achieve the production of such materials.

14. Information

- (a) You acknowledge that we are subject to the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the "FOIA"), the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (the "EIR") and the Data Protection Act 1998 (the "DPA").
- (b) You acknowledge that we are responsible for determining in our absolute discretion whether:
 - (i) to disclose any information which we have obtained under or in connection with the Funding to the extent that we are required to disclose such information to a person making a disclosure request under the FOIA or the EIR; and/or
 - (ii) any information is exempt from disclosure under the FOIA or the EIR.
- (c) You acknowledge that we may share any data you provide to us with fraud prevention agencies and third parties for the purposes of preventing and detecting fraud. Any personal data we collect will be managed in accordance with our Privacy Notice which is available to view here: <https://beta.gov.wales/privacy-notice-welsh-government-grants>

15. Buying goods and services

If you decide to buy any goods and/or services to deliver the Purposes, they must be purchased in a competitive and sustainable way so as to demonstrate that you have achieved best value in the use of public funds.

16. Giving notice

- (a) Where notice is required to be given under these Conditions it must be in writing (this does not include email but may include a letter attached to an email) and must prominently display the following heading:

“Notice in relation to the Pupil Development Grant 2018-19”.

- (b) The address and contact details for the purposes of serving notice under these Conditions are as follows

You: the Project Manager at the address stated in Condition 3.

Us: the Welsh Government Official at the address stated in Condition 3.

- (c) A notice will be deemed to have been properly given as follows:-

Prepaid first class post: on the second working day after the date of posting.

By hand: upon delivery to the address or the next working day if after 4pm or on a weekend or public holiday.

By email attachment: upon transmission or the next working day if after 4pm or on a weekend or public holiday.

17. Equal opportunities

You must apply a policy of equal opportunities as employers, as users of volunteers, and as providers of services, regardless of race, gender/gender identification, sexual orientation, religion and belief, age or any disability.

18. Welsh language

Where the Purposes include or relate to the provision of services in Wales they must be provided in such a way as to not treat the Welsh language less favourably than English, in accordance with the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

19. Sustainability

Your use of the Funding must (where reasonably practicable) meet the Welsh Government’s current agenda for sustainable development and the environment.

20. Welsh Ministers' functions

You acknowledge that the Welsh Ministers have a range of functions which will continue to accrue and be amended and that decisions in relation to each such function are obliged to be taken in the light of all relevant and to the exclusion of all irrelevant considerations. You agree that nothing contained or implied in , or arising under or in connection with, these Conditions will in any way prejudice, fetter or affect the functions of the Welsh Ministers or any of them nor oblige the Welsh Ministers or any of them to exercise, or refrain from exercising, any of their functions in any particular way.

21. General

- (a) If at any time any of these Conditions is deemed to be or becomes invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any respect under any law, the validity, legality and enforceability of the remaining provisions will not in any way be affected or impaired.
- (b) No failure or delay on our part to exercise any power, right or remedy under these Conditions will operate as a waiver of any such power, right or remedy or preclude its further exercise or the exercise of any other power, right or remedy. The powers, rights or remedies hereby provided are cumulative and not exclusive of any powers, rights or remedies provided by law.
- (c) Any amendment or variation to these Conditions must be in writing and signed by us and you in the same manner as this letter.
- (d) You may not assign or otherwise dispose of in any way your rights, benefits, obligations or duties under these Conditions.
- (e) Conditions 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, and 21(e) and such other Conditions which by implication need to continue in force beyond the final payment of Funding will so continue in full force and effect.
- (f) The award of the Funding is to you alone and no one else is entitled to make any claim in respect of the Funding or seek to rely on or enforce any of these Conditions.
- (g) These Conditions are to be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Wales and England as applied in Wales and the parties hereto submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of Wales and England.

22. How to accept this offer of Funding

- (a) To accept this award of Funding you must sign and return a copy of this letter to the Welsh Government Official. None of the Funding will be paid to you until we have received your signed letter.
- (b) We must receive your signed letter within 28 days of the date of this letter, or this award of Funding will automatically be withdrawn.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Tania Nicholson', written in dark ink.

Signed by Tania Nicholson

under authority of the Cabinet Secretary for Education, one of the Welsh Ministers

SCHEDULE 1

The Purposes

From April 2018, the PDG will be allocated to support:

- learners who are eligible for free school meals and who are educated in maintained schools
- eligible learners who are singly-registered in pupil referral units (PRUs) and education other than at school (EOTAS)
- eligible learners in early years settings where the Foundation Phase is delivered
- looked after children (LAC), and former LAC who have been adopted from care or who are subject to a special guardianship or residence order aged 3-15

The PDG Funding should be used to:

- develop staff, both teaching and support, in the use of practice such as metacognition, growth mind-set and quality feedback, that are currently viewed to be the most effective for learners from deprived backgrounds.
- intervene early to address weakness, particularly in literacy and numeracy. This applies to early years but is also relevant at the start of secondary school and at any point that a weakness is observed.
- ensure that increased resources are targeted at Key Stage 3, both in the classroom and in enrichment activities and raising aspirations, while recognising the importance of Year 11 for all learners. In support of the principles of early intervention and prevention, the Cabinet Secretary expects secondary schools to deliver an aspiration of 60% of PDG invested in Key Stage 3 learners.
- identify where and when support is required using appropriate diagnostic and tracking systems and what this looks like.

We are asking you to set out how you will work with schools to ensure that effective use is made of the PDG to improve outcomes for learners who are eligible for free school meals (eFSM) in maintained schools. In particular, we want to know how you will ensure schools:

- set challenging targets and monitor and evaluate the impact of the funding;
- adopt a more equitable approach to funding to ensure that greater investment is made at Key Stage 3;
- receive the necessary support to enable Head teachers to identify, use and evaluate chosen approaches to ensure continued effective improvement.

We ask that you continue to work with maintained and non-maintained early years providers to ensure they are making effective use of the grant, whilst strengthening your links with the non-maintained settings.

We ask you consider cluster models when determining the most effective use of funding to support the delivery of improved outcomes for disadvantaged learners.

The Welsh Government acknowledges new schools will come on stream after the data collection period. We would expect you to continue to manage funding of schools that are closing; amalgamating or new in a strategic and planned manner as you have done previously. Allocations have been fixed for two years and a minimum payment to support schools with no FSM learners in 2016 is provided. Schools with one EYPDG learner and in receipt of the equivalent funding (£700) would not qualify for the minimum payment.

The looked after children element of the PDG, which supports the educational attainment of looked after children and other related groups who have similar needs, will continue to be managed regionally by the consortia. This will allow for continued strategic use of the grant, and you should consider how you will plan, set targets and support learners who are looked after, adopted and subject to care orders through effective use of the grant.

In line with the Welsh Government's looked after children education plan (Raising the ambitions and educational attainment of children who are looked after in Wales) the PDG should be used to meet the costs of identifying a lead coordinator who will retain strategic focus on looked after children in education and ensure the delivery of an agreed, strategic programme of work.

The lead coordinators in each consortium should work with local authorities and schools to identify and share good practice via the online community of practice: <http://www.exchange.wales.org/careandeducation>.

In addition to the PDG allocation for schools and settings £100,000 per annum is provided to retain the services of the newly appointed strategic advisers. This role is supplementary to the role of the looked after children lead coordinator and as such needs to be reflected in the structure of the posts and any administrative support. This will cover costs associated with the role, including travel and subsistence (in recognition of the geographical spread and the need to work with schools right across the region and the need to meet each half-term with the Welsh Government and Raising Attainment Advocate), and administrative support (to enable the lead to operate effectively at a strategic level).

Where the PDG strategic adviser and PDG-LAC lead coordinator roles are combined, evidence is expected to be provided to satisfy us that the Funding provided for the two distinct roles is being used solely and fully for the Purposes outlined. Where the two roles are combined and being performed by one member of staff, wider consortia resources and support will need to be put in place to facilitate the effective delivery of both roles.

PDG strategic advisers and PDG-LAC coordinators should provide robust, constructive challenge and high quality support to enable head teachers and governing bodies to improve the attainment of disadvantaged learners. This equitable approach will strengthen regional leadership arrangements and ensure greater national consistency in supporting e-FSM learners across Wales.

PDG strategic advisers and PDG-LAC coordinators should facilitate a partnership approach to PDG and raising the attainment of disadvantaged learners across the region and collaboration and consistency at a national level.

PDG strategic advisers and PDG-LAC coordinators will work with the Welsh Government and our Raising Attainment Advocate, Sir Alasdair Macdonald, to strengthen collaboration across Wales and ensure that good practice is shared and built upon. They will be expected to have a strong knowledge of all settings (including non-maintained settings) in the region, including understanding the associated data, to allow them to identify schools that need support to improve and identify best practice so that this is shared regionally and nationally.

Building networks through identification of key leads within every school and establishing a regional 'network of leaders' to support and drive progress will be critical.

Strategic advisers and coordinators will be the point of contact for all schools and settings on effective and evidence based interventions. They will be expected to provide extra support and guidance advising on:

- appropriate interventions based on the latest evidence;
- using whole school approaches;
- the benefits of tracking;
- supporting evaluation of current practices; and
- facilitating regional support networks.

SCHEDULE 2

Notification Events

The Notification Events referred to in Condition 9 are listed below:

1. repayment of any part of the Funding is required under European Law (whether under State Aid Rules or otherwise);
2. you fail to comply with any of the Conditions;
3. the Funding, in full or in part, is not being used for the Purposes;
4. you fail to achieve any or all of the Targets;
5. there is unsatisfactory progress towards completing the Purposes, including meeting the Targets;
6. you fail to provide information about the Purposes requested by us, the European Commission or the European Court of Auditors, or any of their auditors, agents or representatives;
7. we have reason to believe that you and/or any of your Personnel are involved in fraudulent activity or have been involved in fraudulent activity [whilst the Purposes are/were being carried out];
8. we have made an overpayment of Funding to you;
9. any declaration made in Condition 8 is incorrect in any respect or, if repeated at any time with reference to the facts and circumstances then existing, would be incorrect;
10. any petition is presented or resolution passed or other action taken for your bankruptcy or winding-up or a petition is presented for an administration order against you;
11. a receiver or an administrative receiver is appointed in respect of you or in respect of all or any part of your assets;
12. a moratorium in respect of all or any of your debts or a composition or an agreement with your creditors is agreed, applied for, ordered or declared;
13. you are unable, or admit in writing your inability, to pay your debts as they fall due;
14. any distress, execution, attachment or other process affects any of your assets;
15. a statutory demand is issued against you;
16. you cease, or threaten to cease, to carry on all or a substantial part of your business;
17. there is a change in your constitution, status, control or ownership and/or your external auditors resign;
18. there is a change in your shareholders, directors, trustees or partners;
19. any event occurs or circumstances arise which in our opinion gives reasonable grounds for believing that you may not, or may be unable, to perform or comply with any of your obligations under these Conditions.

**SCHEDULE 3
Payment Profile**

Instalment	Amount	Claim deadline	Notes
1	Up to 40% of total allocation	15 November 2018	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All additional information requested in relation to the support plan must be submitted to the WG prior to payment being made. 2. Progress of the PDG will be evaluated at Challenge and Review meetings in advance of which you will be required to provide a short report on progress to date aligned to Education in Wales. 3. The Project Manager will meet with Welsh Government officials each half term. The meetings will be held jointly with all consortia leads and the WG Raising Attainment Advocate. These meetings and supporting documents will focus on successes, challenges and case studies; and also provide opportunities for learning and development and to ensure national consistency.
2	Up to 20% of total allocation	19 January 2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Progress of the PDG will also be evaluated at Challenge and Review meetings in advance of which you will be required to provide a short report on progress to date aligned to Education in Wales. 2. The Project Manager will meet with Welsh Government officials each half term. The meetings will be held jointly with all consortia leads and the WG Raising Attainment Advocate. These meetings and supporting documents will focus on successes, challenges and case studies; and also provide opportunities for learning and development and to ensure national consistency.
3	Balance of total allocation, based on projected actual end of year expenditure	9 March 2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Progress of the PDG will also be evaluated at Challenge and Review meetings in advance of which you will be required to provide a short report on progress to date aligned to Education in Wales. 2. The Project Manager will meet with Welsh Government officials each half term. The meetings will be held jointly with all consortia leads and the WG Raising Attainment Advocate. These meetings and supporting

			documents will focus on successes, challenges and case studies; and also provide opportunities for learning and development and to ensure national consistency.
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Dates of all meetings will be agreed directly with the relevant officials.

SCHEDULE 4
Draft Audit Certificate 2018-19
Pupil Development Grant

**AUTHORITY STATEMENT OF REVENUE EXPENDITURE AND LEAD
AUTHORITY ALLOCATION CERTIFICATE**

The authority must complete and submit its annual statement to its lead authority by **30 September 2019** with a photocopy forwarded to:

Jane Sorton Davies

Education and Public Services, Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ.

The Lead Authority should then complete and submit the Lead Authority Allocation Certificate by **31 December 2019** to the Welsh Government Official at the address above, with photocopies forwarded to the regional lead and all authorities within the region.

Local Authority	Contact
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Approved PDG allocations (A) (£)	Actual eligible expenditure incurred by authorities within the region (B) (£)	Grant entitlement (C) (£)	Grant paid to authorities within the region (D) (£)	Balances within the region (due to / from) (E) (£)

Grant entitlement (C) above	£	Total grant drawn down by the regional lead from Welsh Government	£	Total (due to / from Welsh Government)	£

Within total PDG column (C) above – delegated amounts:				
PDG for e-FSM 5-15 years	£	which amounts to	%	of PDG spend (C)
PDG for LAC 4 –15 years	£	which amounts to	%	of PDG spend (C)
PDG for EYPDG	£	which amounts to	%	of PDG spend (C)
PDG for PRUs	£	which amounts to	%	of PDG spend (C)

Certificate of the Chief Finance Officer or delegated authority

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief:

- The above entries are correct and in particular, the entry at column B above correctly records actual incurred expenditure by the local authorities in the region and schools from the revenue grants in the financial year **1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019**. The expenditure has been approved by the Welsh Government and is eligible for grant in accordance with:
 - the Welsh Government Pupil Development Grant guidance;
 - the consortium approved PDG Support Plan; and
 - the grant conditions set out in the authority's Welsh Government grant award of funding letter 2018-19.
- Systems and controls are in place at the authority to ensure the grant is used for the purposes for which it is given whether spent directly, passed to authority schools or third parties.
- No duplicate claim has been made by this authority for funding in respect of these items from the Welsh Government or any other body.
- Monitoring arrangements are in place to ensure implementation is progressing against the agreed plan, with any variances reported in the in-year and end of year monitoring reports.

Signed.....Date.....

Name..... (Local Authority Chief Finance Officer)

THREE SIGNATORIES ARE REQUIRED

We hereby accept the award of Funding and the Conditions relating to the Funding

_____ Signature
An authorised signatory of Section 151 Officer of Rhonda Cynon Taff County Borough Council as Lead Banker Authority on behalf of Central South Consortium.

_____ Name

_____ Job Title

_____ Date

_____ Signature
An authorised signatory of Section 151 Officer of Rhonda Cynon Taff County Borough Council as Lead Banker Authority on behalf of Central South Consortium.

_____ Name

_____ Job Title

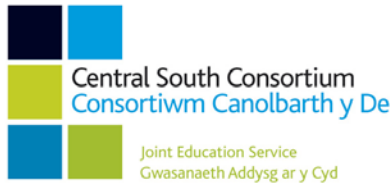
_____ Date

_____ Signature
An authorised signatory of on behalf of the Central South Consortium.

_____ Name

_____ Job Title

_____ Date



CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM REPORT FOR JOINT COMMITTEE

8TH NOVEMBER 2018

JOINT EDUCATION SERVICE

JOINT REPORT OF THE LEAD CHIEF EXECUTIVE – REVIEW OF THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE CONSORTIUM

Author: Chris Bradshaw (Chief Executive – RCTCBC)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To set out a proposal to undertake a review of Central South Consortium regional delivery arrangements and develop proposals for the future model of school improvement

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Consider and agree that an independent review of the Consortium is commissioned to inform the future governance, service delivery and financial costs of the regional service.
- 2.2 Consider and agree, that for the remainder of the academic year to September 2019, the Joint Committee increases the frequency of its meetings from three a year to at least five times per year.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Over the past five years, the performance of the pupils and schools in the Central South Region of South East Wales has continued to improve, at a faster rate than the rest of Wales. This improvement has been due in part to the five Councils' commitment to regional school improvement services and in particular the focus on a school to school improvement model that has achieved considerable success in London and Manchester.

3.2 The focus over the past few years has been to embed the following key approaches to the school to school improvement model:

- School Improvement Groups with all schools actively encouraged to participate focused on shared priorities;
- Pathfinders where high performing schools are partnered with schools requiring improvement to support and accelerate improvements in these schools;
- School Hubs where teacher training and development programmes are offered by hub schools that are aligned to the analysis of regional and national need and follow an enquiry led approach. Programmes have been created following an analysis of school improvement plans from all schools as well as forensic evaluation of available data sources;
- Strategic Leadership Programmes developing existing and future leaders in our schools;
- Peer Enquiry has sought to build greater trust across the schools in the system, building social capital to support the development of the school-led system and the vision to develop trust, openness and honesty between peers. The Peer Enquiry programmes also help support succession planning and preparation / aspiration for headship. The lead and supporting head teachers work alongside the associate members and develop their roles as coaches and mentors. Senior schools leaders describe the process as being excellent professional development and preparation for future headship.
- Challenge Advisors – recruiting and retaining high quality school improvement professionals, improving the standard of their work and reducing the administrative burden to maximise their time in classrooms, improving the quality of leadership and teaching;
- Teach First – recruiting high quality graduates in the key subjects of mathematics, science, English and Welsh, working in partnership with Teach First.

3.3 School leaders across the region have been actively engaged in the approach taken by the Consortium over the past few years, and they have become more accountable for the performance of their school, schools in their cluster and in supporting other schools across the region.

3.4 All ten councils and the majority of our schools have seen the benefits of regional collaboration and in many regards the councils and schools of Central South have led the improvement in Welsh educational standards. However, we need to continue to review what we do, to ensure the Regional Service remains both efficient and effective.

4. THE SCOPE OF THE REVIEW

4.1 The Welsh Government is making many changes to the education system in Wales, with a new curriculum from Foundation Phase through to Key

Stage 5, new accountability frameworks, new approaches to supporting children with Additional Learning Needs, the implementation of schools as learning organisations, the introduction of a National Academy for Educational Leadership (endorsing programmes which will in turn attract funding), the launch of a professional learning model (which will impact upon school to school programmes) as well as changes to the way in which Estyn will inspect schools and local authorities. These changes are being made with no direct increase in the funding available to schools and local authorities.

4.2 The financial pressures on schools and local authorities are significant and whilst the current model of school improvement has been successful, we need to consider the following key questions:

- How well are we performing currently and how well do we understand our own performance and strengths and challenges?
- Are there any other examples and work we can learn from in other consortium in Wales or other local education systems particularly around the development of a school led-system?
- Is the current model fit for purpose for the future taking into account WG planned changes to the education system?
- Is the model affordable over the next 3-5 years, with a likely continued period of austerity?
- What needs to change and how would you implement this change over the next 3-5 years?

4.3 It is therefore proposed that we commission an independent review to consider these questions. In discussion with the Chair of the Joint Committee, the Chief Executives and Directors of Education, it is recommended that ISOS Partnership undertake this review. ISOS previously undertook a review of the Consortium in 2014 and were fundamental in developing and introducing the school to school model of school improvement we have successfully implemented. Furthermore, ISOS have extensive experience of working on the development of school-to-school improvement models at both a national and local level. This includes research reports in England into the development of school-to-school support and the changing role of the local authority including a recent LGA publication *Enabling School Improvement (January 2018)* that sets out how eight local systems are developing their approaches to school improvement. This builds on earlier research undertaken into the changing role of the local authority in education (2012) and the evolving education system In England (2014).

4.4 ISOS are currently completing a major piece of national research for DfE into how school groups achieve sustainable school improvement in partnership with the Institute for Education; and supporting a number of local areas to introduce new schools led models of improvement including the development of school improvement boards and schools led companies. This work will help ISOS challenge our existing ways of

working and introduce new approaches for the Joint Committee, Directors of Education and head teachers' consideration.

- 4.5 ISOS will be commissioned in compliance with RCTCBC's procurement rules and the costs of which will be met from within existing budgets.
- 4.6 The review will build on the existing evidence base that we have built up about what is working in the region and what has had impact in school improvement including considering evaluations undertaken by Estyn, Cardiff University and others. It will need to engage a wide range of stakeholders across the region including members, chief executives, directors of education, consortium staff, headteacher groups and other stakeholders involved in the consortium's work. We will ensure the full range of schools are represented in discussions (English and Welsh speaking, Special Schools etc) and we will have the opportunity to agree this sample with ISOS to ensure it is inclusive.
- 4.7 We would aim for the review to be completed by mid-February 2019 for consideration by the Joint Committee to decide how to move forward from academic year 2019-20.
- 4.8 It is proposed to undertake the review in two broad phases:
 - **Phase 1** - an initial evidence gathering stage with interim feedback to the Joint Committee at the December meeting;
 - **Phase 2** - further development and testing of proposals for the future model with a final report being considered by the Joint Committee in March 2019.
- 4.9 Phase 1 will include interviews and where appropriate workshops with the Cabinet Members, Chairs of Scrutiny Committees, Chief Executives, Directors of Education and Consortium managers and staff. There will also be significant engagement with headteachers from a wider mix of schools from across the region and senior Welsh Government officials to understand the latest thinking on the national model and test their view of the consortium.
- 4.10 Phase 2 will focus on the development of more detailed proposals and options for the future model. It is expected that ISOS would develop and test proposals through further workshops during this phase with the following groups: Directors of Education and key consortium staff; head teachers; and Cabinet Members of Education/Scrutiny Leads.
- 4.11 In concluding the review in March 2019, there are opportunities to remodel the school improvement service by September 2019, the Joint Committee will have the opportunity to make such decisions early in the Spring term.

5. ENHANCING THE ROLE OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE

- 5.1 At the Joint Committee meeting held on 14th June 2018, Members expressed their frustration that the Committee only meets three times a year, once each school term, and whilst they consider and approve important business, there is insufficient time to consider opportunities to learn from schools and other councils in improving educational outcomes.
- 5.2 It is therefore proposed that for the academic year 2018/19 the Joint Committee meets once every half term, and it is planned that three meetings will be held this Autumn term to thoroughly consider the future budget plans of the Consortium. It is proposed that the Joint Committee will still undertake their review of the Consortium Business Plan, financial information, approve the various Welsh Government grants, but also have the opportunity to consider other key developments that are impacting on school improvement and educational outcomes. For example, the Joint Committee could request reports on the following:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Curriculum Reform;• Peer Review model – delivered by the lead head teachers;• Pioneer Schools in Curriculum Reform – delivered by the lead head teachers;• SACRE• Bilingualism• National Academy for Leadership – delivered by the lead head teacher;• Professional Learning Offer – delivered by the lead head teacher;• Closing the gap Strategy – delivered by the lead head teacher;• Accountability Measures;• ALN;	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of Post 16 provision across the region;• More able and talented;• PISA – how are we performing?• Teaching Award Winners;• Excellence in Inspections (primary & secondary head teachers);• How can we develop and share services currently funded by MEAG;• Schools as Learning Organisations – delivered by the lead head teacher;• Strategy for Vulnerable Schools;• Self-Evaluation;• Well Being;• Children Looked After;• Attendance;• Governing Bodies – Training & Engagement.
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- 5.3 A number of the examples on the list would be local authority led such as the Post 16 provision, Children Looked After, Attendance, ALN, Well Being and whether we can develop and deliver shared services currently funded by MEAG.
- 5.4 There are also many other opportunities for the Joint Committee Members to challenge and review other services that impact on school improvement

such as Human Resources and the performance management of school based staff.

- 5.5 At the end of the 2018/19 academic year the Joint Committee can then determine its meeting cycle for the 2019/20 academic year and whether it wishes to continue to meet half termly.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

8TH NOVEMBER 2018

CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM JOINT COMMITTEE

List of background papers

Freestanding matter

Officers to Contact:

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Mrs Louise Blatchford (Tel No. 01443 281400)

