

CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM JOINT EDUCATION SERVICE.

Minutes of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service. meeting held on Tuesday, 21 January 2020 at 10.00 am at the Valleys Innovation Centre, Navigation Park, Abercynon.

County Borough Councillors - Central South Consortium Joint Education Service. Members in attendance:-

Councillor C. Smith (Bridgend County Borough Council)
Councillor S. Merry (Cardiff Council)
Councillor L. Burnett (Vale of Glamorgan)

Council Officers in attendance:-

Mr C. Bradshaw (Chief Executive, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)
Mr M Tate (Assistant Director of Education, Cardiff Council)
Ms P. Ham (Director of Learning & Skills, Vale of Glamorgan)
Ms M Thatcher (Assistant Director of Education, Bridgend Council)
Ms G. Davies (Director of Education & Inclusion Services, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)
Mr P. Griffiths (Service Director, Performance & Improvement, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)

Others in attendance:-

Ms L. Blatchford (Acting Manager, Central South Consortium)

48 Minutes

RESOLVED to approve as an accurate record the minutes of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee meeting on the 19th December 2019.

49 Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct there were no declarations made pertaining to the agenda.

50 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from County Borough Councillor J. Rosser, L. Mytton and Lead Chief Executive Mr P Orders and Lead Director Ms S.Walker.

51 Budget Monitoring 2019/20, Budget Setting 2020/21 and Medium Term Financial Plan update

The Service Director - Finance and Improvement Services presented the Committee with an update on the projected outturn position for 2019/20 and a summary of grant funding for the current year; set out the proposed 2020/21 revenue budget and basis of appointment of local authority contribution levels for financial years 2020/21 to 2022/23; and provided a Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) (2020/21 and 2022/23) update.

The Service Director – Finance and Improvement Services informed Members that the full year projected outturn position is a £185k underspend (projected as at December 2019) and noted that this compared to a projected underspend position of £155k reported to the 25th September 2019 Joint Committee meeting. The Service Director also set out the key budget variances that comprised the latest projected outturn position.

The Service Director went on to provide Members with the latest 2019/20 grant allocations and explained that this area will continue to be closely monitored to ensure the use and effectiveness of grants are maximised across the region.

The Service Director continued and provided Members with the draft 2020/21 Revenue Budget for the Consortium. Members were informed that the draft budget had been constructed based on a 3% reduction in local authority contributions and in line with specific parameters as set out in 5.4 of the report. The Service Director provided further detail in respect of local authority contribution levels for 2020/21 and the basis of apportionment, and confirmed that the apportionment methodology will be kept under on-going review.

The Service Director completed the agenda item by providing Members with an updated MTFP (2020/21 to 2022/23). The Service Director noted that MTFP updates are provided to the Committee each year and fed back that as part of the Committee approving the detailed implementation plan to remodel the current Consortium approach at the 19th December 2019 meeting, a recommendation was also agreed at this meeting for an indicative three year budget for the Consortium to be reported to the January 2020 Joint Committee.

The Service Director went on to provide an overview of the planning assumptions built into the updated MTFP; financial modelling scenarios; and a recommendation from the Chief Executives of the constituent local authorities that the Consortium should model its medium term budget planning arrangements on local authority contributions levels being -1% in 2021/22 and -1% in 2022/23. The Service Director added that it was important to note that the recommendation represents an indicative budget to aid medium term service planning arrangements and will be kept under on-going review, and that further work will be undertaken with the incoming Managing Director to review this area in more detail, including consideration of budget savings options alongside the impact on service delivery, and report back to Joint Committee.

The Chair thanked the Officer for the report and asked for Members comments and questions.

The Chair commented that the recommended level of local authority contributions for 2020/21 had been discussed with colleagues and informed the Committee that a written submission from the Cabinet Member for Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council had been received and indicated that Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council was not in agreement with recommendation 2.1 of the report as it was felt that any revenue underspend at year-end should be returned to the five local authorities.

The Service Director – Finance and Improvement Services fed back that the projected outturn position is currently a forecast to year-end and, based on this, a prudent approach is recommended to ensure the Consortium continues to maintain its financial stability. The Service Director added that as part of the

year-end close of accounts process, should an under-spend materialise, this will be reported to Joint Committee for the Committee to determine its use, taking into account the recommendation of the Treasurer.

Following consideration of the report and recommendations, it was **RESOLVED**:

- 1 To note the current projected outturn position for 2019/20 and agree that if a revenue budget underspend materialises at year-end, support the retention of this balance within the Consortium to further support medium term planning and resourcing.
- 2 Note the current grant funding position 2019/20
- 3 Approve the budget for 2020/21 in order for the constituent local authorities to approve as appropriate and confirm their approval to the next meeting of the Joint Committee
- 4 Approve the basis of apportionment of local authority contribution levels for financial years 2020/21 to 2022/23.
- 5 Note the Medium Term Financial Plan update (2020/21 to 2022/23) and agree to instruct the lead Section 151 Officer to notify the constituent local authorities of the recommended indicative 3-year budget to inform the medium term financial planning arrangements within each Council.

- **Progress Report on the Annual Governance Statement**

The Acting Managing Director Central South Consortium presented an progress update on the proposals for improvement made within 2018/19 Annual Governance Statement.

Members were reminded that the CSC'S Annual governance Statement (AGS) relating to 2018/19 financial year was reported and approved by the Joint Committee at its meeting held on the 15th July 2019. The document described the governance arrangements in place, challenged their effectiveness and set out proposals for improvement.

Members were advised that the AGS made seven proposals for improvement and note that the Consortium's Senior Management Team had accepted these and was committed to their implementation during 2019/20. Members were also advised that an update on progress would be reported to Joint Committee during the year to enable elected Members to review and scrutinise the extent of progress being made.

Following consideration of the report, was **RESOLVED** to note the progress that had been made to date in implementing the proposals for improvement.

- **Central South Business Plan 2019-20**

The Acting Managing Director Central South Consortium presented Members with a progress report on the business plan 2019/20. It was highlighted that the business plan 2019/20 runs from the 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020.

Members were reminded that the business plan was approved by Directors on 14th December 2018 and Joint Committee on 19th December 2019. The following six objectives identified within the plan were as follows:

53 Objective One – To develop a high –quality education profession;

54 Objective Two - To develop inspirational leaders and to facilitate their

- working collaborative to raise standards;
- 55 Objective Three** – To develop strong and inclusive schools committed to excellence, equality and wellbeing;
- 56 Objective Four** – To develop robust assessment evaluation and accountability arrangements supporting a self –improving system;
- 57 Objective Five** – To support all schools with development of a transformational curriculum; and
- 58 Objective Six** – To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of CSC.

It was highlighted that as part of the business plan monitoring process, drive teams meet with the Managing Director on a termly basis to discuss progress and identify risks. These risks are shared through the appropriate governance channels.

The Acting Managing Director continued and present Members with a summary of the progress to date and explained that the final progress report will be presented to the Joint Committee at the end of the spring term 2020.

After consideration of the Report Members **RESOLVED** to note the information contained within the report.

54 Central South Consortium Business Plan 2020-2021

The Acting Managing Director presented her report in respect of the draft business plan priorities for 2020/2021.

Members were reminded that the national model requires that a draft business plan for 2020/21 is presented to the Joint Committee in December 201, however, due to the timing of the General Election and subsequent delay in the publication of funding allocation, it was agreed to delay the presentation of the draft business plan priorities until the January meeting. Members were also informed that the final business plan will be submitted in full to the March Joint Committee meeting.

It was explained to the Joint Committee that that the business plan priorities for 2020/21 will need to take account of:

- Aspects within the existing business plan that were identified to be developed in 20/21;
- The outcomes of self-evaluation, including performance analysis;
- Emerging requirements of local authorities;
- National priorities; and
- Cross consortia planning.

It was also highlighted that when developing the new business plan the improvements and recommendations from the ISOS review which were subsequently accepted by the Joint Committee are addressed.

The Acting Managing Director explained that the Consortium will continue to work closely with Welsh Government to ensure that the funding is used effectively to support the strategic priorities set out within the draft business plan. Consultation with stakeholder groups will run from 21st January until the 14th February 2020 and consultation with all schools will take place from 14th

February to the 6th March via the CSC website. The Acting Managing Director concluded that the final version of the business plan will be presented to Joint Committee on the 19th March for approval.

Members put forward their comments and **RESOLVED**;

- 54 Note the content of the business plan document and its recommendations

55. CYPE Committee Evidence

The Acting Managing Director updated Members of the Central South Consortium Joint Committee on the meeting of the National Assembly for Wales Children, Young People and Education Committee – School improvement and raising standards held in December 2019.

The Acting Managing Director explained that it was a very productive meeting however the formal transcript of the meeting was not available at this time.

Members **RESOLVED** to note the updating information.

56 Senior Leadership Structure Report

Members of the Joint Committee were asked to consider the report of the Director of Human Resources which seeks Members approval to create the post of Deputy Managing Director.

It was explained that as Members would recall that a formal review of the Consortiums operational model has taken place over the last few months.

Members would also recall that Clara Seery has now been appointed to the post of Managing Director and she will take up her role on the 1st March 2020.

It was explained that now that the key appointment has been made, it is felt necessary to review the management tier below.

Members considered the report and **RESOLVED**:

- 1 To agree that the post of Deputy Managing Director be created ;
- 2 Agreed to authorise the Lead Chief Executive in conjunction with representatives of the five local authorities to appoint the role of Deputy Managing Director; and
- 3 Agree in accordance with the host Authority's Change Management Policy agree that the post be advertised internally in the first instance.

57 URGENT BUSINESS

This meeting closed at 10.55 am

**CLLR C. SMITH
CHAIR.**