

**A virtual meeting of the CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM JOINT EDUCATION SERVICE JOINT COMMITTEE will be held on:
Tuesday, 13th December, 2022 at 3.30 pm**

Meeting Contact: Tracy Watson - Senior Democratic & Scrutiny Officer (07747 485567)

Please be aware that a 50% membership attendance is required for the meeting to be quorate. Please advise the meeting contact, listed above, of any apologies in advance of the meeting.

Please note the meeting will be recorded and published (excluding any exempt items). Any Non-Members of the Committee wishing to attend this meeting as an observer, please notify the meeting contact, listed above, who will in turn seek authorisation from the Chair.

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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. MINUTES

To approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the meeting of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee held on 25th October 2022.

(Pages 3 - 8)

3. BUDGET MONITORING UPDATE 2022/23

To receive a joint report from the Managing Director and Treasurer in respect of Budget Monitoring for 2022/23

(Pages 9 - 14)

4. CSC MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL UPDATE (INDICATIVE 3-YR BUDGET, 2023/24 - 2025/26)

To receive a joint report from the Managing Director and Treasurer in respect of Medium Term Financial Planning (2023/24 - 2025/26)

(Pages 15 - 22)

5. BUDGET SETTING 2023/24

To receive a joint report from the Managing Director and Treasurer in respect of Budget Setting for 2023/24

(Pages 23 - 28)

6. CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM GRANTS REPORT

To receive an update from the Deputy Managing Director of the Central South Consortium

(Pages 29 - 34)

7. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT PROGRESS REPORT

To receive a report from the Deputy Managing Director of the Central South Consortium

(Pages 35 - 38)

8. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

To consider passing the under-mentioned resolution:
"That press and public be excluded from the meeting under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Act"

9. CSC RISK REGISTER

To receive a report from the Managing Director of the Central South Consortium

(Pages 39 - 42)

10. URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any items, which the Chairman, by reason of special circumstances, is of the opinion should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

To: Members of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM JOINT EDUCATION SERVICE JOINT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 25 October 2022 at 3.00 pm

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

Councillor R. Birch (Vale of Glamorgan) (Chair)
Councillor R. Lewis (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)
Councillor Jon-Paul Blundell (Bridgend County Borough Council)
Councillor M. Jones (Merthyr Tydfil Council)

Council Officers in attendance: -

Ms S Davies - Service Director, Finance Services (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)
Mr L. Harvey - Lead Director of Education (Bridgend County Borough Council)

Others in attendance: -

Ms C Seery - Managing Director Central South Consortium
Ms L Blatchford Deputy - Managing Director Central South Consortium
Mr Mike Jones - Audit Lead (Audit Wales)

16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies of absence were received from Councillor Sarah Merry, Cardiff Council and Ellis Cooper, Chief Executive Officer, Merthyr Tydfil CBC.

17 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Councils Code of Conduct, there were no declarations of interest made pertaining to the agenda.

18 MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 7th June 2022 as an accurate reflection of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee.

19 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

The Service Director, Finance Services, advised that financial reports of CSC were prepared very competently and robustly by the finance team in CSC, and were then reviewed by the S151 Officer, of the host authority, and in presenting these reports to Members, with the Service Director, Finance Services representing the S151 Officer. Members were advised, that in terms of the regulatory background, the Accounts & Audit regulations required accounts to be certified by 31st May after year end, and audited Statements of Account, published by 31st July after year end. It was acknowledged that due to local

government elections in 2022, it was not possible to arrange a Joint Committee to certify the draft accounts by 31st May. In addition to this, due to the ongoing impact of Covid-19, Welsh Government (WG) outlined their expectations for the certification and audit of Statements of Account, extending the timescales and requiring certification by 31st August 2022, with these accounts certified on 14th June 2022, and timescale for publication of audited accounts extended to 30th November 2022.

The Service Director, Finance Services, explained that she was not planning to go through the Statement of Accounts at Appendix 1 in any great detail, as these were presented in draft form at the June Joint committee, but advised that since that point, an audit had taken place and advised Members, that only a very few minor presentational adjustments were required as a result, which evidenced the draft accounts were of very good quality. There had been no change to the outturn position as a result of the audit and general reserves remained as per the draft accounts, at £174k. The consortium's accounts were also positively presented at the host authority's Governance and Audit Committee on 7th September 2022, and this provided Joint Committee with an additional layer of assurance over the robustness of the documents presented today.

In concluding, the Service Director, Finance Services, acknowledged it was standard practice for Audit Wales to request a Letter of Representation from audited bodies, which was presented at Appendix 2, and detailed the joint Committee's responsibilities and controls that were in place to ensure that the financial statements are not materially misstated, in particular in relation to fraud and related party transactions.

Following consideration by Members it was **RESOLVED** to:

- Approve the audited Statement of Accounts for 2021/22 as set out at Appendix 1, together with the Letter of Representation at Appendix 2;

Note the final outturn position for the year and the level of General Reserves held.

20 REPORT OF AUDIT WALES - AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Audit Wales Lead presented the report and summarised the main findings from the audit of the 2021-2022 accounts. Members were drawn to page 4 of the report, and in particular the level of 'materiality' applied within the report, which had been set at £1.998 million for this year's audit, noting that there were some areas of the accounts, that had a much lower 'materiality' set. Members were informed that there were no misstatements identified in the accounts and the Audit Wales Lead praised the finance team. Members acknowledged one error, in that the wrong audit opinion had been quoted in the financial statements and should be updated from the current ISA 260.

Following consideration by Members it was **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the Audit of Accounts Report, by Audit Wales.

21 BUDGET REPORT 2022-2023

The Service Director, Finance Services advised that the report set out the projected financial position of the consortium for the current financial year. The budget of £3.6 million was agreed by Joint Committee on 22nd Dec 2021,

with the current position showing a total estimated underspend for the year of £10,482. Members were advised that Employee budgets were currently underspending by £36k resulting from temporary vacancies associated with the timing of recruitment, offset by additional Improvement Partner capacity. Premises shows a net underspend of £32k where there were savings on the Valleys Innovation Centre accommodation, again offset by external premises hire. Members were advised that transport was showing an overspend resulting from increased face to face meetings, as things returned to normal, after Covid-19 and supplies and services were projected to overspend as a result of investment in ICT equipment, and also translation, advertising and promotional materials.

The Service Director, Finance Services continued that Members would be aware of the uncertainty of pay awards for 2022/23 with APT&C staff offered a flat rate of £1925, teachers 5% in addition to uncertainty regarding the Soulbury, terms and conditions, so clearly a key factor for outturns. The additional costs of these pay awards had not been factored into the outturns with an additional potential cost of around £58k. Members were advised that this pressure, at this level, could be met from some temporary underspends, and looking at maximising grant funding opportunities and reducing non-essential in year expenditure. Members would also be aware from their local authorities that work was currently ongoing on medium term financial plans. The medium term financial plan for the consortium was now planned to be presented in December, and this would need to factor in the implications of the 22/23 pay award, alongside any workforce and other cost pressures. Members were advised that section 4 detailed the significant grants that were received by the region, with £87 million being delegated to Local Authorities and their schools.

Following consideration by Members it was **RESOLVED** to:

- Note the current outturn position for 2022/23;
- Note the estimated additional cost implications of the current 2022/23 pay award offers and support the proposed approach to funding the additional costs in 2022/23;

Note the current grant position for 2022/23.

22 CSC ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN REPORT

The Deputy Managing Director, CSC began by advising Members that the purpose of the report was to consider and ratify the annual business plan progress report for 2021-22, which in future years would come in the summer term. Members were advised that the annual report was based on the previous financial year and provided an update with the progress and impact that had been achieved for the period 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022, with the business plan approved by joint committee in March 2021, and five overarching priorities outlined, within the plan for that year, as detailed in paragraph 1.1, of the business plan.

The Self-Evaluation Review Process, was presented, at Section 2 of the business plan and Members were advised there was a termly cycle of business planning and impact reviews, with the senior leadership team taking part as drive teams, on each of those five areas. That information was then rolled up into a termly report as in previous years, and then the annual report was presented.

Section 3, provided Members with the overarching summary of progress, and Table 1, showed the different areas of the priorities, aligned to the business plan and the level of progress made. There had been very good or strong progress made in over three quarters of the elements, satisfactory progress made in almost a quarter of the remaining elements, with the elements where progress was not deemed to be satisfactory enough, often covid related, and had been identified and picked up in the current financial year.

Section 4 then provided Members with any risks identified at an operational level, reported through these interim reports and into the annual report. Members were advised, there were no areas of risk that couldn't be managed at a local level but the Deputy Managing Director, CSC would be presenting the revised risk register to the December meeting of the Committee, after consultation with the Management Board, at their meeting in November. Section 5 of the report then provided Members with an analysis of the impact that had been made against the different priorities within the business plan, and the Deputy Managing Director, CSC then provided Members with a few key points, from Section 5.1, to develop a high-quality education procession, which she hoped would reassure Members that the professional learning provided was having an impact on the delegates, schools and settings within CSC.

The Deputy Managing Director, CSC explained that the Appendices, A – F, at the end of Business Plan, included narrative against each of the actions within the business plan, for Members to cross reference, and see the detail over the progress that had been made as well as the impact. Members acknowledged that the report had also been presented to all governance groups, including the CSC management board, as well as going to governor stakeholder groups and regional stakeholder groups.

Following consideration by Members it was **RESOLVED** to approve the Annual Business Plan Report for 2021 – 2022 of Central South Consortium.

23 CSC ANNUAL MONITORING AND REPORTING CYCLE, 22-23

The Deputy Managing Director, CSC advised that this report provided Members with a proposal to change the reporting cycle for the work undertaken within CSC. Following a review of reporting processes within CSC, Professor Caroline Daly, of UCL had worked with members of the executive leadership team, management board, headteacher and governor stakeholder governance groups and CSC staff, to consider how this reporting could be improved. Members were advised that following a series of workshops and discussions, a revised reporting cycle, had been developed, for consideration, which addressed some of the issues highlighted including the need to develop a shared understanding of the purpose of evaluation, the shared language, when discussing evaluation and impact, to develop a framework for evaluation and to revise monitoring and reporting frameworks, with the revised framework for evaluation attached as Appendix A.

The Deputy Managing Director, CSC then took Members through the revised monitoring framework, outlined in Appendix B, noting that the implications of this would be to produce two annual reports including an Annual Academic Year Scrutiny Report presented to Members of the Joint Committee in December each year, and once approved by Members, would be presented to the LA Scrutiny Committees in the Spring Term. Each LA Scrutiny Committee would receive a regional overview as well as an individual overview on the work in their

local authority. In addition, an Annual Financial Year Report would be presented to Members of the Joint Committee in June each year. The proposed annual reports would replace the previous annual Effectiveness and Efficiency Report as well as the termly business plan progress reports. In addition, these reports would provide progress on the CSC Business Plan with specific LA priorities included within the LA Scrutiny Reports.

The Deputy Managing Director, CSC concluded that the changes would ensure that stakeholders received an update in a timely manner and it would allow improvement of the processes for gathering that intelligence, whether that be through improvement partners from schools directly, or through surveys etc. It was felt that these proposals were sustainable, and working with governance groups, ensured the needs of all our stakeholders were met with ongoing review after each cycle, taking onboard feedback to improve for the future. Members were asked to consider whether there were any areas of the work of CSC Members would like to see included within the annual reports.

Following discussion, it was agreed that that further information on the turnover of staff, within education, by sector and possibly even by subject, should be provided.

The Deputy Managing Director, CSC noted that this was an item that was addressed in the Risk Register and would be presented to Members in the December meeting.

Following consideration by Members it was **RESOLVED** to approve the proposed monitoring cycle.

24 MEMBERS' (CSC) INFORMATION

The Managing Director, CSC advised that the Committee had before them, a copy of the booklet of Information for Elected Members, outlined in Appendix 1, which provided information about the work of CSC including some information about Education in Wales, a link to the Improvement priorities and the way those were delivered, through the central South Wales challenge, a small piece of information about how CSC was funded, and how that funding was then allocated, with the vast majority of that devolved out to schools within the local authorities, and then finally information how that work was evaluated.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the booklet should be emailed out to all Elected Members in the 5 Local Authorities, within the South-Central Consortium.

Following consideration by Members it was **RESOLVED** approve the content of Central South Consortium's (CSC's) Information for Elected Members' Booklet.

25 MEMBERS' CSC ENGAGEMENT SESSION DATES, 22-23

The Managing Director, CSC advised that this item was about the Induction Programme that had been running and thanked those Members who had attended the second induction session, last week. Members were advised that this was quite an informative session, looking at the role of Scrutiny within the WG guidance and the role of Improvement Partners and how that guidance was being used to pull together all of the support going into schools. The Managing Director, CSC advised Members that dates were not yet confirmed, for the

Spring and Summer Terms, but Officers would work with Democratic Services to come up with proposed dates, so these could be put in the diary. The Managing Director, CSC acknowledged that there were a number of scrutiny members who came to the previous session and the same format would carry on, with something that was regional and then breaking out into local authority subgroups, to look at what that meant for each local authority. Members were reminded that the sessions were recorded, and sent out to Members, and all Members of the Scrutiny Committees, and stated that it would be useful for colleagues who weren't able to attend the session to access that material, and to engage with it, advising that if there were things, which would be particularly useful to have done at local level with Scrutiny Committees, CSC were more than happy to do that as well.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the following would be considered for the Spring and Summer Terms:

Spring - looking at the story of a school over a year and the support that goes into it (possibly outside of the 5 local authorities that make up CSC)

Summer – Learning and Improvement Journey.

Following consideration by Members it was **RESOLVED** to note that the dates for the proposed workshops, were yet to be confirmed and acknowledge the areas of focus for the proposed workshops in the Spring and Summer Terms.

26 URGENT BUSINESS

None.

This meeting closed at 3.49 pm

**Cllr R Birch
Chair**



**CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM
REPORT FOR JOINT COMMITTEE**

13th DECEMBER 2022

JOINT EDUCATION SERVICE

**JOINT REPORT OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR AND THE TREASURER
– 2022/23 BUDGET MONITORING UPDATE**

Authors: Clara Seery (Managing Director) and Stephanie Davies (Service Director - Finance Services)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide Members with:

- 1.1 An update of the projected outturn position for 2022/23.
- 1.2 A summary of 2022/23 grant funding.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Note the current projected outturn position for 2022/23.
- 2.2 Authorise the lead Section 151 Officer to allocate any year-end underspend, after taking account of specific financial risks, to the existing Service Remodeling Earmarked Reserve to support the setting and delivery of balanced budgets over the medium-term.
- 2.3 Note the current grant funding position for 2022/23.

3. **BUDGET MONITORING 2022/23**

3.1 A summary of the 2022/23 projected outturn position is set out in Table 1.

Table 1 – Projected Outturn Position 2022/23

Category	Original Budget 2022/23 £	Projected Out-turn 2022/23 £	Variance (Under) / Overspend £
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Employees	3,130,925	2,934,058	(196,867)
Premises			
Rent	158,816	88,280	(70,536)
Maintenance	150	2,861	2,711
Other	0	23,154	23,154
Total Premises Cost	158,966	114,295	(44,671)
Transport	12,000	22,417	10,417
Supplies & Services			
Continuing Professional Development / Staff Adverts	28,500	25,105	(3,395)
Licenses / Mobile and Telephone Charges / Computer Costs – Hardware / Software	71,507	90,430	18,923
External Audit and Actuary Fee, Employers Liability and Public Liability Insurance	53,020	53,635	615
Photocopying / Postage / Advertising / Stationery / General Office Expenses	20,877	36,670	15,793
Total Supplies & Services	173,904	205,840	31,936
Commissioning	27,655	27,655	0
Support Services	140,925	152,747	11,822
Gross Expenditure	3,644,375	3,457,012	(187,363)
<u>Income</u>			
Local Authority Contributions	3,624,875	3,624,875	0
Grants and Other Income	19,500	19,500	0

Category	Original Budget 2022/23 £	Projected Out-turn 2022/23 £	Variance (Under) / Overspend £
Total Income	3,644,375	3,644,375	0
Net Expenditure	0	(187,363)	(187,363)

3.2 The full year projected outturn position (projected as at November 2022) is a £187k projected underspend (£10.5k projected underspend reported to the 25th October 2022 Joint Committee meeting). Key variances within the projected outturn position include:

- Employees (£197k projected net underspend) – savings due to the timing of recruitment and utilisation of external grant funding, partly offset by additional Improvement Partner capacity to support the on-going delivery of business requirements (including Curriculum for Wales);
- Premises (£45k projected net underspend) – savings due to rationalisation of accommodation requirements at the Valleys Innovation Centre partly offset by additional costs from the use of external facilities;
- Transport (£10k projected overspend) – primarily due to the need for more physical / face-to-face attendance across schools as part of supporting school improvement activities, the timing of which being in line with the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions;
- Supplies and Services (£32k projected overspend) – estimated additional one-off costs to enable investment in ICT hardware; and
- Support Services (£12k projected overspend) – primarily due to an increase in service level requested to be delivered by the host authority.

3.3 As Members will be aware, the financial outlook over the medium term is expected to be very challenging. With this in mind, the Committee is requested to authorise the lead Section 151 Officer to allocate any underspend at year-end, after taking account of specific financial risks, to the existing Service Remodeling Earmarked Reserve to support the setting and delivery of balanced budgets over the medium-term. For Members information, the audited 2021/22 Statement of Accounts included a Service Remodeling Earmarked Reserve of £200k; for the year to date, there are no costs which require to be funded from this reserve.

4. GRANT FUNDED SERVICE 2022/23

4.1 Table 2 sets out the 2022/23 grant allocations received by the Consortium from Welsh Government as at November 2022.

Table 2 – 2022/23 Grant Allocations

	RCSIG	PDG	2022/2023 Grant Allocation	
<u>Centrally retained funding</u>				
Employee costs	4,290,590	178,251	4,468,841	4.7%
Non Employee costs	197,011	-	197,011	0.2%
Centrally Retained Pan Wales project costs	60,000	-	60,000	0.1%
PDG CLA Out of Wales		40,250	40,250	0.0%
Business Plan Activity	2,165,190	113,361	2,278,551	2.4%
	6,712,791	331,862	7,044,653	7.4%
<u>Delegated funding to LAs & Schools</u>				
Central South Wales Challenge Model	488,100		488,100	0.5%
Collaboration Model	4,639,366		4,639,366	4.9%
Support to School Partnerships	186,000		186,000	0.2%
Curriculum Reform (Network facilitation)	52,500		52,500	0.1%
Professional Learning funding to schools	3,858,221		3,858,221	4.0%
EIG Element for Schools / PRUs	35,414,430		35,414,430	37.2%
Non Maintained settings - Foundation Phase	314,600		314,600	0.3%
Local authorities (LA) - administration of grant	67,207		67,207	0.1%
LA Annex	98,345		98,345	0.1%
PDG (Schools)		40,538,650	40,538,650	42.5%
PDG (Local Authorities)		703,942	703,942	0.7%
PDG CLA (inc Out of Wales)		1,909,819	1,909,819	2.0%
	45,118,769	43,152,411	88,271,180	92.6%
TOTAL GRANT (INCLUDING LA MATCH FUNDING)	51,831,560	43,484,273	95,315,833	
LA MATCH FUNDING	2,989,022	-	2,989,022	
TOTAL GRANT (EXCLUDING LA MATCH FUNDING)	48,842,538	43,484,273	92,326,811	

4.2 The Consortium has updated its Grants Register to reflect the position set out in Table 2 and will continue to monitor expenditure to ensure the use and effectiveness of grants are maximised across the region.

5. CONCLUSIONS

5.1 The projected outturn position for the full year is a £187k underspend (projected as at November 2022) and the Consortium will continue to closely monitor and manage its resources and report updates to Joint Committee through to year-end.

5.2 The 2022/23 Grants Register has been updated to reflect the current grant funding position.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

13th DECEMBER 2022

CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM JOINT COMMITTEE

List of background papers

Freestanding matter

Officers to Contact:

Mrs. Clara Seery (Tel No. 01443 281400)
Stephanie Davies (Tel No. 01443 680560)

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CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM

REPORT FOR JOINT COMMITTEE

13TH DECEMBER 2022

JOINT EDUCATION SERVICE

JOINT REPORT OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR AND THE TREASURER – MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN UPDATE (INDICATIVE 3 YEAR BUDGET - 2023/24 TO 2025/26)

Authors: Clara Seery (Managing Director) and Stephanie Davies (Service Director – Financial Services)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To provide Members with:

1.1.1 A Medium Term Financial Plan update for the period 2023/24 to 2025/26.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

2.1 Consider and approve the Medium Term Financial Plan update (2023/24 to 2025/26) and 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.

2.2 Authorise the Lead Section 151 Officer to utilise the 'Service Remodeling Earmarked Reserve', as transitional funding, to support the Consortium in setting a balanced and deliverable budget for 2023/24 (and over the medium-term period) where appropriate.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 The public sector has faced a sustained period of real term reductions in funding levels for a number of years and unprecedented challenges lie ahead

for services across local government, not least as a result of the on-going national and international economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic, Brexit, increases in cost of living and the conflict in Ukraine. This position is also resulting in increased demand and costs associated with many services, and the need for local authorities to continue to support children, residents, businesses and communities as they recover from the pandemic and deal with the impact of the cost-of-living crisis.

- 3.2 On 17th November 2022 the UK Government set out its Autumn Budget Statement that confirmed Welsh Government will receive an additional £1.2billion over the next two years (2023/24 and 2024/25). With inflation being at a 40-year high and increasing demand for many services, the additional funding to be allocated to Welsh Government will be worth less in real terms than it was at the time of the last UK Government Spending Review in October 2021. The outlook for local authority funding levels therefore remains very challenging over the medium term.
- 3.3 The Consortium has a sound track record of setting and delivering balanced budgets against a backdrop of reducing funding levels and protecting the delivery of frontline school improvement activities. It will be imperative the Consortium's medium term financial planning is positioned to operate within the above financial outlook, with the continuation of robust arrangements to identify and deliver budget savings over this period.
- 3.4 As Members will be aware, since 2018/19, the Consortium has held an earmarked reserve for service remodeling. The reserve currently stands at £200k and was established to help smooth the delivery of budget savings over a number of years while still allowing for the annual delivery of balanced budgets.

4. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN UPDATE - INDICATIVE 3 YEAR BUDGET (2023/24 TO 2025/26)

- 4.1 Medium Term Financial Planning (MTFP) is an essential component of effective financial management, a cornerstone of good governance and an enabler of service delivery and service improvement within the constraints of available resources.
- 4.2 The Consortium recognises the importance of MTFP and the latest plan was reported to the 15th July 2021 Joint Committee meeting and used to inform the 2022/23 budget setting process, this being approved on 22nd December 2021 in line with the requirements of the legal agreement.
- 4.3 Following on, the Consortium's MTFP has been refreshed using the planning assumptions set out below:
 - (a) The recommended 2022/23 Revenue Budget (paragraph 5.6 / Table 4 of the report titled 2021/22 Budget Monitoring Update And 2022/23 Budget

Setting that was presented to Joint Committee on the 22nd December 2021) is used as the baseline year;

- (b) Employee costs based on the estimated 2023/24 staffing structure (incorporating the financial impact of the 2022/23 pay award for NJC employees and the estimated financial impact of the current 2022/23 pay award offer for Soulbury officers). Over the medium term period, the following pay inflation assumptions have been included:
 - a. NJC employee pay increasing by 4% in the 2023/24 financial year and 3% in 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years respectively.
 - b. Soulbury employee pay increasing by 4% effective from September 2023 and 3% from September 2024 and 2025 respectively.
- (c) Other employee related costs: no change to employer Pension Fund contribution rates over the period to 2025/26 (noting that the results of the 2022 Pension Fund Triennial Valuation are awaited that will set employer pension fund contribution rates for the period 2023/24 to 2025/26) and no change to the funding mix of employee costs between core and external grant; and
- (d) Non-pay inflation set in line with the Bank of England’s monetary policy inflation target of 2% per year over the medium term.

4.4 Based on the above assumptions the forecasted inescapable budget pressures for 2023/24 through to 2025/26 are set out in Table 1.

Table 1 - Updated Inescapable Budget Pressures (2023/24 to 2025/26)

	Inescapable Budget Pressures		
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	(£k)	(£k)	(£k)
<u>Inescapable Budget Pressures</u>			
Pay	172	124	113
Non-pay Inflation	10	10	10
Business Travel (Business as Usual)	17	0	0
Annual Inescapable Budget Pressures	199	134	123

4.5 To assist the Joint Committee in its planning considerations over the medium term, a number of financial modelling scenarios have been compiled using the above assumptions (noting that every + / - 1% in local authority contributions equate to approximately £36k). A summary is set out in Table 2.

Table 2 - Medium term financial modelling (2023/24 to 2025/26)

Financial Modelling Scenarios	Estimated Annual Impact (Budget Gap) on the Consortium's Funding			Estimated Cumulative Impact (Budget Gap)
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	(£k)
	(£k)	(£k)	(£k)	
A - Local Authority Contributions 23/24 -3%, 24/25 -2% & 25/26 -2%	308	207	196	711
B - Local Authority Contributions 23/24 -2%, 24/25 -2% & 25/26 -2%	271	207	196	674
C - Local Authority Contributions 23/24 -2%, 24/25 0% & 25/26 0%	271	134	123	528
D - Local Authority Contributions 23/24 0%, 24/25 0% & 25/26 0%	199	134	123	456
E - Local Authority Contributions 23/24 +1%, 24/25 +1% & 25/26 +1%	163	97	86	346
F- Local Authority contributions cover employee related cost assumptions 2023/24 to 2025/26 only (pay and business travel)	10	10	10	30

4.6 The Chief Executives of the constituent local authorities have reviewed the information set out in Tables 1 and 2 above and recommend that the Consortium should model its medium-term budget planning arrangements on the following option:

Table 3 – Recommended Financial Modeling Option

	Forecasted Annual Budget Gap		
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	(£k)	(£k)	(£k)
A - Local Authority Contributions 23/24 -3%, 24/25 -2% & 25/26 -2%	308	207	196

4.7 Subject to approval of the above recommended option, the change in local authority core contribution levels for 2023/24 compared to 2022/23 is set out in Table 4.

Table 4 – Change in local authority 2023/24 recommended contribution levels compared to 2022/23

Local Authority Contribution	Core Contribution Levels - 2023/24 Recommended Increase / (Decrease) Compared to 2022/23¹
Bridgend	(17)
Cardiff	(40)
Merthyr Tydfil	(7)
Rhondda Cynon Taf	(29)
Vale of Glamorgan	(16)
% Increase / (Decrease) Compared to 2022/23	(109)

4.8 Members will note that this option will require the Consortium, within the indicative funding allocated, to manage pay / non-play inflation and deliver budget savings to set a balanced budget.

4.9 A review of the Consortium’s 2022/23 Revenue Budget has been undertaken to identify budget saving proposals - these are set out in Table 5 below.

Table 5 - 2023/24 Budget saving proposals (identified to date)

Budget Saving Proposal	Estimated Budget Saving £'000	Impact
Grant Utilisation – Eligible costs charged against grant	(105)	High probability that the budget savings can be delivered successfully with low impact on school improvement activities.
Office Accommodation	(55)	
CSC Staffing contractual changes	(27)	
Reduction of 0.4 FTE Improvement Partners	(33)	Change of service level will have a minimal negative effect on delivery of frontline school improvement services compared to current service standards.
Outdoor Education	(27)	Change of service level will have a minimal negative effect on delivery of

¹ Actual core contributions subject to change based on Indicator Based Assessments (IBAs) published as part of the Final 2023/24 Local Government Revenue & Capital Settlement

		national model for regional school improvement working.
Reduction to LA Annex funding	(28)	Approximate 23% reduction in funding for dedicated work required in each local authority
Total Budget Saving Proposals	(275)	
Total Forecasted Budget Gap (Table 3)	308	
Remaining Forecasted Budget Gap	33	

4.10 As set out in paragraph 4.3, the financial implications of specific areas of the Consortium's budget for 2023/24 are subject to confirmation, namely the outcome of the 2022/23 pay award for Soulbury officers and the 2022 Pension Fund Triennial Valuation, both of which are likely to impact on the forecasted budget gap for the forthcoming financial year. Members are therefore requested to authorise the Lead Section 151 Officer to utilise the 'Service Remodeling Earmarked Reserve', as transitional funding, to support the Consortium in setting a balanced and deliverable budget for 2023/24 (and over the medium-term period) where appropriate. On-going medium term financial plan updates will be reported to the Joint Committee for consideration and approval, as part of existing financial management reporting arrangements, including opportunities to replenish the Service Remodeling Earmarked Reserve.

4.11 In considering the recommended way forward, it is important to note that this is an indicative budget through to 2025/26 to aid medium term service planning arrangements and will be kept under review and updated on an on-going basis to take account of, for example, local government settlements, key changes in inflation, any financial implications and also key announcements.

4.12 Subject to the consideration of the Joint Committee, the Lead Section 151 Officer will notify constituent local authorities of a recommended option to enable each Council to take account of this position as part of medium-term financial planning arrangements.

5. CONCLUSIONS

5.1 The Consortium's MTFP has been refreshed and the Chief Executives of constituent local authorities have recommended a medium-term financial plan, for financial modelling purposes, through to financial year 2025/26 for the Joint Committee's consideration.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

13TH DECEMBER 2022

**CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM JOINT EDUCATION SERVICE JOINT
COMMITTEE**

List of background papers

Freestanding matter

Officers to Contact:

Mrs. Clara Seery (Tel No. 01443 281400)

Ms. Stephanie Davies (Tel No. 01443 680560)

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**CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM
REPORT FOR JOINT COMMITTEE**

13TH DECEMBER 2022

JOINT EDUCATION SERVICE

**JOINT REPORT OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR AND THE TREASURER
– 2023/24 BUDGET SETTING**

Authors: Clara Seery (Managing Director) and Stephanie Davies (Service Director - Finance Services)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide Members with:

- 1.1 The proposed 2023/24 revenue budget and basis of apportionment of local authority contribution levels for this period.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Consider and approve the revenue budget for 2023/24.
- 2.2 Instruct the lead Section 151 Officer to notify constituent local authorities of the approved revenue budget for 2023/24 (to enable incorporation into the respective budget setting arrangements for each Council) and for constituent local authorities to confirm their approval to the next meeting of the Joint Committee.

3. REVENUE BUDGET 2023/24

- 3.1 Under the terms of the Central South Consortium's Legal Agreement, the Joint Committee is required to approve its budget by the 31st December for the following financial year in order that member local authorities can consider and approve their contributions.
- 3.2 As set out in the report 'Medium Term Financial Plan Update (Indicative 3 Year Budget – 2023/24 to 2024/25)' (MTFP) to the Joint Committee on 13th December 2022, the outlook for local authority funding levels is expected to remain very challenging over the medium term.
- 3.3 In line with the above mentioned MTFP, the 2023/24 Revenue Budget has been constructed based on a 3% decrease in Local Authority core contributions alongside the following parameters:
- Target available funding to key priorities and protect, as far as is practicable, frontline school improvement resources;
 - The continued delivery of efficiency savings; and
 - The Consortium to fully fund:
 - Estimated pay and non-pay (i.e. goods and services) related inflation.
- 3.4 The overall saving requirement for 2023/24 totals £308k, comprising cost pressures in relation to pay (£172k), non-pay inflation / service pressures (£27k) and reduction in local authority contribution levels (£109k). The required budget savings, in line with the principles set out in paragraph 3.3 above and the MTFP report to the Joint Committee on 13th December 2022, are proposed to be delivered through revisions to staffing arrangements, reduction in accommodation costs and grant utilisation, and also a contribution of £33k from the "Service Remodeling Earmarked Reserve", as transitional funding, to support the Consortium in setting a balanced and deliverable budget for 2023/24. Members will note that the part-use of the 'Service Remodeling Earmarked Reserve' provides one-off funding to support the setting of the 2023/24 revenue budget, with the requirement for the Consortium to identify further permanent budget savings of £33k during 2023/24.
- 3.5 The Treasurer has validated the core budget saving proposals and has confirmed that they would be available for release in the 2023/24 financial year.
- 3.6 Bringing together the information set out in paragraphs 3.3 to 3.4, Table 1 sets out the draft revenue budget for 2023/24.

Table 1 – Draft Revenue Budget 2023/24

Category	Original Budget 2022/23	Proposed Budget 2023/24	Budget Increase / (Decrease)
	£	£	£
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Employees	3,130,925	3,111,384	(19,541)
Premises	158,966	103,966	(55,000)
Transport	12,000	29,000	17,000
Supplies and Services	173,904	173,904	0
Commissioning	27,655	0	(27,655)
Support Services	140,925	150,375	9,450
Gross Expenditure	3,644,375	3,568,629	(75,746)
<u>Income & Funding</u>			
Local Authority Contributions	3,624,875	3,516,129	(108,746)
Grants and Other Income	19,500	19,500	0
Transitional Funding	0	33,000	33,000
Total Income & Funding	3,644,375	3,568,629	(75,746)
Net Expenditure	0	0	0

3.7 With regard to funding contributions from each Local Authority, Members will note that these are based on specific Indicator Based Assessments (IBAs) published by Welsh Government (in accordance with the Central South Consortium’s Legal Agreement). Table 2 sets out the 2023/24 Local Authority contributions on this basis.

Table 2 - 2023/24 Local Authority contribution levels

Local Authority	2023/24 Allocation Basis		2022/23 Contribution	2023/24 Contribution	Change Increase / (Decrease)
	(Based on 2022/23 IBA)*				
	£'000	%	£	£	£
Bridgend	104,864	15.29%	554,243	537,616	-16,627
Cardiff	250,861	36.60%	1,326,704	1,286,903	-39,801
Merthyr Tydfil	43,432	6.33%	229,455	222,571	-6,884
Rhondda Cynon Taf	184,786	26.95%	976,904	947,597	-29,307
Vale of Glamorgan	101,681	14.83%	537,569	521,442	-16,127
Total	685,624	100.00%	3,624,875	3,516,129	-108,746

* Actual core contributions subject to change based on IBAs published as part of the Final 2023/24 Local Government Revenue & Capital Settlement

- 3.8 Subject to the decision of the Joint Committee, agreed contribution levels for 2023/24 will be notified to member local authorities for their approval and confirmation back to the next Joint Committee meeting.
- 3.9 Following on, budget monitoring update reports will be presented to the Joint Committee during 2023/24, in line with the approved revenue budget, as part of existing financial management reporting arrangements.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 A draft 2023/24 Revenue Budget for the Consortium has been prepared and reflects an aggregate 3% decrease in member local authority contribution levels, adjusted for 2022/23 IBA, this being in line with the indicative three-year revenue budget presented to Joint Committee on the 13th December 2022.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

13th DECEMBER 2022

CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM JOINT COMMITTEE

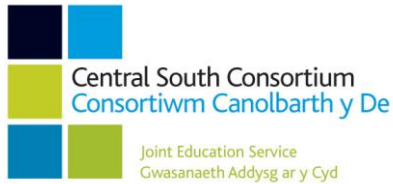
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CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM

JOINT COMMITTEE REPORT

13TH DECEMBER 2022

CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM GRANTS

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS OF EDUCATION

Author: Louise Blatchford, Deputy Managing Director

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with an update on the grants to be received by the Consortium in 2022/23, for which notifications have been received, and the methods of allocation of each.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Directors recommend the following to the Joint Committee:

- 2.1 Approve the distribution of grants as detailed in section 4 of this report (and Annex A).

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 As host authority Rhondda Cynon Taf will 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.

4.0 METHOD OF APPORTIONMENT

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

4.2 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 Management Board of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service. This will ensure appropriate and effective use of grant funding to target school improvement equitably across each of the five local authority areas.
- A report detailing the basis and reasons for the method adopted shall be presented to the Joint Committee for approval.

4.3 This report presents details of 2022/23 grants to the Joint Committee.

5.0 2022/23 GRANTS

5.1 Grant approval letters have been received detailing grant levels for the Central South Consortium. The Directors have agreed to maintain the local authority dis-aggregation of the funding and to apply a common formula for the delegation of the local authority funding to schools.

5.2 Pupil Development Grant (PDG)

5.2.1 The total award of funding for the Pupil Development Grant for the financial year 2022/2023 is £43,484,273 (£37,581,970 in 2021/2022). From April 2022, the PDG has been allocated to support:-

- Learners who are eligible for free school meals (PLASC 2021) 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
- Employment of PDG Strategic Adviser

The funding is weighted according to category and age of pupils and is tabled below:-

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

5.2.2 The total award of funding includes £236,273 (£278,230 in 2021/2022) for PDG Consortia Led Funding. On the 15th July 2022 CSC Management Board approved that £163k of the PDG Consortia Led funding should be delegated to local authorities to provide targeted support / fund activity at a local level and £73k retained centrally for the RADY and Enabling Equity and Excellence pilot.

5.2.3 For 2022/23 the apportionment of funding is as follows:-

	PDG CLA £	PDG Strategic Adviser £	Delegated Directly to Schools £	Centrally Retained LA Level for EOTAS, Non maintained settings & Consortia Led Funding £	Total £
Bridgend	310,435	0	5,629,250	70,990	6,010,675
Cardiff	619,486	0	16,949,850	366,870	17,936,206
Merthyr Tydfil	116,494	0	2,554,150	54,046	2,724,690
RCT	567,802	0	11,268,850	208,498	12,045,150
Vale of Glam	255,352	0	4,136,550	43,788	4,435,690
CSC	118,781	100,000	0	72,831	291,612
Outside of Wales	40,250	0	0	0	40,250
TOTAL	2,028,600	100,000	40,538,650	817,023	43,484,273

5.3 Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant – Revised Award of Grant Funding

5.3.1 The revised award of funding is £189,993, taking the total award of grant funding for the financial year 2022/23 to £48,842,538.

5.3.2 The aim of the additional funding is to further support the following:

¹ £700 per eligible learner applicable in 2019/2020

- i) National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH) - £9,625
- vi) Welsh-medium capacity grant - £134,118
- vii) Supporting vulnerable learners through teaching and learning - £46,250

5.3.3 Members will note that of the revised award of funding (£189,993), £134,118 is delegated to schools and £55,875 retained to manage the programme on behalf of the five local authorities.

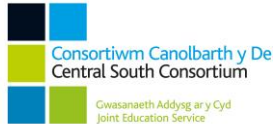
5.3.4 An updated breakdown of the apportionment of the funding, in line with the approved CSC 2022/23 Business Plan, can be found in table 1 below.

Table 1 – Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant 2022/23

Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant	2022/2023 Budget Reported on 7th June 2022	2022/2023 Revised Budget	
	£	£	%
<u>Centrally retained funding</u>			
Employee costs	4,404,814	4,290,590	8.3%
Non Employee costs	143,196	197,011	0.4%
Centrally Retained Pan Wales project costs	60,000	60,000	0.1%
Business Plan Activity	2,126,005	2,165,190	4.2%
	6,734,015	6,712,791	13.0%
<u>RCSIG Yet To be allocated</u>			
Pending update from grantor Decision Report - CSC Management Board (Autumn 2022)	1,065,702	0	0.0%
	1,065,702	0	0.0%
<u>Delegated funding to LAs & Schools</u>			
Central South Wales Challenge Model (Lead Practitioners)	517,500	488,100	0.9%
Collaboration Model	3,327,578	4,639,366	9.0%
Support to School Partnerships	186,000	186,000	0.4%
Curriculum Reform (Network facilitation)	52,500	52,500	0.1%
Professional Learning funding to schools	3,835,760	3,858,221	7.4%
EIG Element for Schools / PRUs	35,442,360	35,414,430	68.3%
Non Maintained settings - Foundation Phase	314,600	314,600	0.6%
Local authorities (LA) - administration of grant	67,207	67,207	0.1%
LA Annex	98,345	98,345	0.2%
	43,841,850	45,118,769	87.0%
TOTAL GRANT (INCLUDING LA MATCH FUNDING)	51,641,567	51,831,560	
LA MATCH FUNDING	2,989,022	2,989,022	
TOTAL GRANT (EXCLUDING LA MATCH FUNDING)	48,652,545	48,842,538	

	Delegated to schools/LAs	Retained Initially for future delegation to schools	Retained by CSC for Specific Circumstances	Central Salaries	Total	Areas to include	Provisional Apportionment																											
	£	£	£	£	£																													
National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH)			9,625		9,625	Deliver NPQH to support the new Professional Standards for Teaching and Leadership and "Our National Mission".	Commitment by WG to fund the costs of retaking assessment by 2021/22 NPQH candidates (£875 per candidate) who failed to meet the requirements of the award.																											
Welsh-medium capacity grant	134,118				134,118	Support capacity building in across parts of the Welsh-medium and bilingual workforce.	<p>Apportionment of WG funding based on successful nationally evaluated bids.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2022/2023</th> <th>2023/2024</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Llangynwyd</td> <td>9,492</td> <td>6,780</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Plasmawr (in partnership with Glantaf and Bro Edern)</td> <td>17,500</td> <td>12,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cwm Rhondda</td> <td>20,417</td> <td>14,583.33</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gartholwg (Gyda'n Gilydd 1)</td> <td>9,721</td> <td>6,943.75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gartholwg (Gyda'n Gilydd 2)</td> <td>16,637</td> <td>11,883.33</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gartholwg (Gyda'n Gilydd 3)</td> <td>6,685</td> <td>4,775.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Glantaf (in partnership with Bro Edern, Plasmawr and Bro Morgannwg)</td> <td>53,667</td> <td>38,333.33</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>134,118</td> <td>95,799</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>£95.8k funding in 2023/24 financial year to be awarded.</p>		2022/2023	2023/2024	Llangynwyd	9,492	6,780	Plasmawr (in partnership with Glantaf and Bro Edern)	17,500	12,500	Cwm Rhondda	20,417	14,583.33	Gartholwg (Gyda'n Gilydd 1)	9,721	6,943.75	Gartholwg (Gyda'n Gilydd 2)	16,637	11,883.33	Gartholwg (Gyda'n Gilydd 3)	6,685	4,775.00	Glantaf (in partnership with Bro Edern, Plasmawr and Bro Morgannwg)	53,667	38,333.33		134,118	95,799
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Supporting vulnerable learners through teaching and learning			46,250		46,250	Support the delivery of a proposal to provide every school in Wales with the potential to significantly raise standards of teaching and learning for disadvantaged and vulnerable learners.	<p>Funding will support Tranche 2 work to launch a national programme during 22/23.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>All Wales</th> <th>CSC</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Development Cost Tranche 2</td> <td>£ 50,000</td> <td>£ 12,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Licence for all Welsh Schools & Settings</td> <td>£ 75,000</td> <td>£ 18,750</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Programme Translation Costs (All materials & resources)</td> <td>£ 50,000</td> <td>£ 12,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>National Programme Launch Costs</td> <td>£ 10,000</td> <td>£ 2,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Cost for Year 2</td> <td>£ 185,000</td> <td>£ 46,250</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		All Wales	CSC	Development Cost Tranche 2	£ 50,000	£ 12,500	Licence for all Welsh Schools & Settings	£ 75,000	£ 18,750	Programme Translation Costs (All materials & resources)	£ 50,000	£ 12,500	National Programme Launch Costs	£ 10,000	£ 2,500	Total Cost for Year 2	£ 185,000	£ 46,250									
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TOTAL	134,118	0	55,875	0	189,993																													

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CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM
REPORT FOR JOINT COMMITTEE
13TH DECEMBER 2022
JOINT EDUCATION SERVICE

REPORT OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR: Progress Update - 2021/22 Annual Governance Statement Recommendations

Author: Louise Blatchford (Deputy Managing Director)

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee (from hereon Joint Committee) with a progress update on the proposals for improvement made within the 2021/22 Annual Governance Statement.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members review the information contained within the report and:

- 2.1 Seek clarity and explanation where there are areas of concern.
- 2.2 Form an opinion on the extent of progress that has been made to date in implementing the proposals for improvement reported (**Appendix 1**).

3. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2020/21

- 3.1 The Central South Consortium's Annual Governance Statement (AGS) relating to the 2021/22 financial year was reported to and approved by the Joint Committee at its meeting held on 25th October 2022. The document described the governance arrangements in place, challenged their effectiveness and set out proposals for improvement.
- 3.2 The Annual Governance Statement 2021/22 made four proposals for improvement and noted that the Consortium's Senior Management Team had accepted these and was committed to their implementation during 2022/23. At this time, the Senior Management Team also confirmed that an update on

progress would be reported to the Joint Committee during the year to enable elected Members to review and scrutinise the extent of progress being made.

- 3.3 In line with the above, the Joint Committee is requested to review the progress update set out at Appendix 1 and form a view on the extent of progress that has been made to date in implementing the proposals for improvement.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 A progress update on the four proposals for improvement made within the 2021-22 Annual Governance Statement is set out at Appendix 1. Of the four recommendations for improvement, two are completed, with progress made on the remaining.
- 4.2 The provision of this information will assist the Joint Committee is assessing the adequacy of the governance arrangements in place for the Central South Consortium.

PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVEMENT – PROGRESS UPDATE

Core Principle / Area	Paragraph No.	Issue Identified	Proposal for Improvement	Timescale for Implementation	Responsible Officer	Progress
Ensuring Openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement	5.3.11	Communication with stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a stakeholder survey across the region as part of CSC's business plan priority to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of CSC. 	Autumn Term 22	Managing Director	In progress – Survey questions have been designed to align to the requirements of CSC's self-evaluation process. The survey link will be shared with stakeholders (including all schools) in the Spring Term 2023
Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits	5.4.7	Financial Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose an amendment to the Legal Agreement to allow for LA priorities and outcomes of self-evaluation to be embedded within the Business Plan of CSC. 	Autumn Term 22	Deputy Managing Director	In progress – Following consultation with stakeholders, a draft revised version of the legal agreement has been sent to RCT legal team for consideration
Developing the entity's capacity, including the	5.7.3	Induction of New Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an induction programme for newly elected 	Summer Term 22	Managing Director	Completed - Induction programme has been developed and shared

<p>capability of its leadership and the individuals within it</p>			<p>Members within the local authorities on the work of Central South Consortium</p>			<p>with Members. Initial sessions have been completed and a further two sessions are planned later in the academic year</p>
<p>Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management</p>	<p>5.8.4</p>	<p>Risk Management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The risk management policy has been reviewed in 2021/22 and proposals for improvement to be presented to governance groups for consideration during the year 	<p>Summer Term 22</p>	<p>Deputy Managing Director</p>	<p>Completed – The risk policy has been amended and approved by CSC Partnership Board in October 2022</p>

By virtue of paragraph(s) 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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