



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL WELSH LANGUAGE CABINET STEERING GROUP

Minutes of the meeting of the Welsh Language Cabinet Steering Group meeting held on Monday, 19 July 2021 at 10.00 am at the Virtual.

County Borough Councillors - Welsh Language Cabinet Steering Group Members in attendance:-

Councillor G Hopkins (Chair)

Councillor R Bevan Councillor R Lewis
Councillor E Stephens

Officers in attendance

Ms A Richards, Temporary Service Director - 21st Century Schools and Transformation
Mr S Gealy, Welsh Language Services Manager

1 Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, Councillor Rhys Lewis declared the following personal declaration of interest pertaining to the agenda and remained in the meeting when the item was discussed and voted upon:

- "I am the Chair of Governors in Abercynon Primary School, a school referenced in the WESP report".

2 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 22nd April 2021 as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

3 Apologies

Apologies of absence were received from County Borough Councillors L. Hooper and Vice Chair J. Rosser.

4 Welcome

The Chair welcomed County Borough Councillor R Lewis to his first meeting of the Steering Group.

5 DRAFT WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN

The Council Business Unit Manager provided the Welsh Language Cabinet Steering Group Members with an overview of the reporting framework for the

Council's Draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan, advising Members of the opportunity to comment on the draft WESP and the consultation proposed within, before consideration by Cabinet on the 20th July. Members were advised that subject to the decision taken by Cabinet it was intended that the Draft WESP would be further presented to the Steering Group prior to consideration by cabinet so that the working group could assist in a robust decision making process.

The Council Business Unit Manager provided the Welsh Language Cabinet Steering Group Members with an overview of the reporting framework for the Council's Draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan, advising Members of the opportunity to comment on the draft WESP and the consultation proposed within, before consideration by Cabinet on the 20th July. Members were advised that subject to the decision taken by Cabinet it was intended that the Draft WESP would be further presented to the Steering Group prior to consideration by cabinet so that the working group could assist in a robust decision making process.

The Temporary Service Director 21st Century Schools and Transformation then provided Members with further detail in respect of the WESP report.

Members were reminded that as well as the target to increase the percentage of year one learners in Welsh medium education, the WESP includes seven outcomes or areas setting out how Local Authorities are expected to improve Welsh medium and Welsh language education in their locality. The priorities are

1. **Outcome 1:** More nursery / three year old learners receive their education through the medium of Welsh.
2. **Outcome 2:** More reception / five year old learners receive their education through the medium of Welsh.
3. **Outcome 3:** More learners continue to improve their Welsh language skills when transferring from one stage of their statutory education to another.
4. **Outcome 4:** More learners study for assessed qualifications in Welsh (as a subject) and subjects through the medium of Welsh.
5. **Outcome 5:** More opportunities for learners to use Welsh in different contexts in school.
6. **Outcome 6:** An increase in the provision of Welsh medium education for learners with additional learning needs.
7. **Outcome 7:** Increase the number of teaching staff able to teach Welsh (as a subject) and through the medium of Welsh.

Following a detailed overview, discussions ensued. The Chair thanked officers for the detailed overview and noted that the WESP has been the culmination of detailed, hard work by Officers complimented with successful partnership engagement with external partners. The Chair was pleased to see the longer term view and noted that regular reviews will take place over that 10 year period.

Another Member thanked officers for giving a detailed update and noted that in respect of outcome 1 it is important that learners are encouraged to use the Welsh language outside of school settings and in the local community. The Member noted the important challenge ahead in terms of getting learners to have the confidence to speak Welsh in local businesses and queried how officers were planning on meeting this challenge going forward. The Service Manager - Welsh Language Services advised Members that the 5 year strategy runs alongside the WESP and emphasised that the Welsh Government are eager for the outcomes to run alongside each other. The Service Manager

emphasised that they are currently in the process of developing a new 5 year plan, which will be ready by approximately next Spring. The new 5 year plan will be presented to the Steering Group as soon as it has been completed. In respect of local businesses and the challenge of encouraging learners to use the Welsh language in the local community, the Service Director emphasised that the service will continue to work closely with Council service areas and partners in the community

Following discussion, Members **RESOLVED** to note the information provided in respect of the Council's Draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

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6 Urgent Business

There was no urgent business to report.

7 Date of Next Meeting

The Chair noted the date of the next meeting to be the 19th October 2021.

This meeting closed at 10.17 am

**Cllr G Hopkins
Chairman.**