



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2021**

**CONSULTATION – DRAFT WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND INCLUSION  
SERVICES**

**Report author: Grace Zecca-Hanagan, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee with an overview of the Council's draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) which was presented to the Cabinet meeting on the [20<sup>th</sup> July 2021](#).
- 1.2 To give Members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to contribute to the consultation process in respect of the draft WESP.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that members:

- 2.1 Scrutinise the information provided in respect of the Council's draft WESP.
- 2.2 Contribute to Council's draft WESP statutory consultation process.

**3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 To provide Members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee with an update on the draft WESP and to reflect Members comments as part of the statutory consultation process.

**4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Members are aware that the Council has set an ambitious target to increase the percentage of year one learners in Welsh medium education. The draft WESP, attached as [Appendix 1](#) sets out the actions

the Council will take over the forthcoming ten years, up to and including 2032, to make progress towards the achievement of this target.

- 4.2 In order to meet this target by 2032, the Council, along with officers from a number of external groups and organisations who form the WESP Strategic Group need to work collectively. The Council, therefore, welcomes the opportunity to consult and engage with a wide range of stakeholders to seek their views on the achievement of this ambitious target.
- 4.3 The draft WESP statutory consultation process provides opportunities for the Council's stakeholders to give their feedback. In addition, Members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, is considered as consultee as part of the Council's overall consultation arrangements.
- 4.4 Members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee can access the statutory consultation via the following [link](#) and a hard copy of the statutory consultation is also provided as [Appendix 2](#) to this report.
- 4.5 The feedback provided via the statutory consultation process will be incorporated into a Cabinet Report and be considered by Cabinet as part of its consideration of the Council's draft WESP.
- 4.6 It is proposed that prior to formal consideration by the Cabinet (as outlined in 4.5 above), the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee undertakes pre-scrutiny on the draft WESP. These comments and observations will be presented to Cabinet when it considers this matter.

## **5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY**

- 5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (with Social-Economic Duty) for the draft WESP is attached as [Appendix 3](#) to the Cabinet Report.

## **6. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 A Welsh Language Impact Assessment for the draft WESP is attached as [Appendix 4](#) to the Cabinet Report

## **7. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT**

- 7.1 The draft WESP is subject to a comprehensive public statutory consultation with a range of stakeholders for no less than an eight week period. In addition, it has been presented to the Welsh Language Cabinet Steering Group for consideration.

7.2 Current circumstances will inevitably limit the opportunity for face to face engagement, however, the Council will make best use of the variety of social media, remote meetings and digital tools to engage with stakeholders.

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

8.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

9.1 The following legislation / regulations are aligned to this report:

1. Section 84 of The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.
2. The WESP (Wales) Regulations 2019.
3. The WESP (Wales) (Amendment) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020.

## **10. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.**

10.1 The draft WESP links to the Council's Corporate Plan for the period between 2020 to 2024, specifically the priority:

- Prosperity – Creating the opportunity for people and businesses to be innovative, entrepreneurial and fulfil their potential and prosper:
  - Ensuring we have good schools, so all children have access to a great education.

10.3 The delivery of the WESP will contribute to all seven well-being goals within the Future Generation (Wales) Act. In addition, due regard has been made to the Five Ways of Working, as contained within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

## **11. CONCLUSION**

11.1 The Council remains committed to ensuring the availability of Welsh medium education, from the initial early years through to primary and secondary education before progressing through to higher and further education, so that all learners whatever their learning needs are able to access Welsh medium provision. This is in line with Welsh Government's vision for one million Welsh speakers in Wales by 2050 as set out in Cymraeg 2050.

11.2 Members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee are asked to provide feedback as part of the Council's overall statutory consultation process.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

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Background Papers

1. Draft WESP.
2. Statutory Consultation.
3. Equality Impact Assessment (with Social-Economic Duty).
4. Welsh Language Impact Assessment.

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