

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

8th DECEMBER 2021

DRAFT WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN

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

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Members with an overview of the Council's Draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) following the recent public consultation. The outcome of this consultation and the proposed WESP which is to be presented to the Cabinet meeting on the 13th December 2021 is attached as Appendix A for Member's reference.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 Following Members consideration of the feedback obtained from the public consultation in respect of the Council's draft WESP, that the Scrutiny Committee provide feedback to the Cabinet in respect of the proposed WESP prior to Cabinet's consideration on the 13th December 2021.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The need to update Children and Young People Scrutiny Members on the consultation outcomes and the resulting changes to the draft WESP, prior to its consideration at Cabinet.

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.
- 4.2 The proposed WESP sets out the action the Council will take over the forthcoming ten years, by 2032, to make progress towards the achievement of this target.

- 4.3 In order to meet the 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 to achieve these ambitious targets. At the Cabinet meeting of the 20th July 2021, Cabinet agreed to undertake a public consultation on the draft WESP to allow the opportunity to engage with a wide range of stakeholders to seek their views on the achievement of this ambitious target.
- 4.4 The draft WESP consultation process provided opportunities for all of the Council's stakeholders to get involved in giving their feedback. The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, on the 13th October 2021, formed part of the consultation process in addition to Members of the Welsh Language Cabinet Steering Group, in line with its Terms of Reference, at its meeting on the 19th July 2021.
- 4.5 The feedback from all stakeholders provided via the consultation process has been incorporated into a Statutory Consultation Report and the updated Council's proposed WESP. These documents will be considered by Cabinet on the 13th December as part of its formal consideration of the Council's proposed WESP. A copy of the draft report to be presented to Cabinet and the proposed WESP is included as Appendix A.
- 4.6 In advance of Cabinet's Consideration, the Cabinet seeks the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee's comments and feedback on the proposed WESP prior to Cabinet's determination.

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 Annex 3 to Appendix 1.

6. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 A Welsh Language Impact Assessment is attached as attached as Annex 4 to Appendix 1.

7. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 7.1 The draft WESP was subject to a comprehensive public consultation with a wide range of stakeholders for an eight week period. In addition, it has been considered by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and the Welsh Language Cabinet Steering Group.
- 7.2 Current circumstances has inevitably limited the opportunity for face to face engagement, however, the Council has made the best use of a variety of social media, remote meetings and digital tools to engage with stakeholders as part of the consultation process.

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.

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

10.1 The WESP links to RCTCBC's Corporate Plan, 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.

10.2 The delivery of the WESP will contribute to all seven well-being goals within the Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015 and 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 early years through to primary and secondary education before progressing through to higher and further education, so that all learners whatever their learning needs 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 to assist Cabinet in their deliberations.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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