

CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM
REPORT FOR JOINT COMMITTEE
16TH DECEMBER 2021
JOINT EDUCATION SERVICE

REPORT OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR: Progress Update - 2020/21 Annual Governance Statement Recommendations

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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 2020/21 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 2020/21 financial year was reported to and approved by the Joint Committee at its meeting held on 22nd September 2021. The document described the governance arrangements in place, challenged their effectiveness and set out proposals for improvement.
- 3.2 The Annual Governance Statement 2020/21 made ten proposals for improvement and noted that the Consortium's Senior Management Team had accepted these and was committed to their implementation during 2021/22. 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 ten proposals for improvement made within the 2020-21 Annual Governance Statement is set out at Appendix 1. Of the ten recommendations for improvement, five 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	5.3.9	Revised Governance Framework for CSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the revised governance structure agreed by Joint Committee 	July 2021	Managing Director	Completed – Revised governance structure implemented with agreed terms of reference
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the Legal Agreement against the revised governance structure 	September 2021	Deputy Managing Director / RCT Legal Team	In progress – Meeting has taken place to agree process with RCT legal team.
	Monitoring and Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a monitoring and reporting principles document and share with governance groups for agreement. Produce an annual forward planner for all governance meetings 	July 2021	Deputy Managing Director	Completed – Paper shared and agreed with Joint Committee in May 2021	
					Completed – Forward planner in use within CSC	
	Communications with stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise the Communications Strategy and share with stakeholder groups. Establish a working party to review the communications requirements of schools. 	September 2021	Communications Manager	Completed – Communications strategy shared and agreed with Joint Committee in May 2021. CSC communications working party membership agreed.	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relaunch the annual survey with schools. 	November 2021	Assistant Director	In progress – Annual survey of school staff and pupils has been completed by a sample of schools. Analysis is ongoing with final reports shared in Spring Term 2022
Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits	5.4.7	Financial Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further develop the Medium-Term Financial Plan during 2021/22 	July 2021	Deputy Managing Director	Completed – Medium term financial plan agreed with Joint Committee in July 2021
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the office accommodation requirements of CSC following the adaptations made to working arrangements due to the COVID 19 pandemic 	September 2021	Managing Director	In progress – Negotiations ongoing with RCT corporate estates
	5.7.3	Professional Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a training programme with Members in the local authorities on the requirements of the 'Draft School Improvement, Accountability and Evaluation Guidance' 	December 2021	Managing Director	In progress – Training has been completed for all Members of CSC Joint Committee as well as additional training sessions in Bridgend, RCT and Vale of Glamorgan.
	5.8.4	Risk Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review risk management strategies and present proposals to governance groups for consideration 	September 2021	Deputy Managing Director	In Progress – Risk management review has been undertaken. Recommendations for improvement will be incorporated following consultation, in the financial year 2022/23
