

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

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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 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 in 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

capability of its leadership and the individuals within it			Members within the local authorities on the work of Central South Consortium			with Members. Initial sessions have been completed and a further two sessions are planned later in the academic year
Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management	5.8.4	Risk Management	<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 	Summer Term 22	Deputy Managing Director	<p>Completed –</p> <p>The risk policy has been amended and approved by CSC Partnership Board in October 2022</p>
