



## Report of the Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Lifelong Learning

Council – 23 November 2017

### Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020

<b>Purpose:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Council adopts the amended Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2017-2020</li><li>2. Council gives permission to submit the amended WESP 2017-2020 to Welsh Government for its approval.</li></ol>
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	<p>The Welsh in Education Strategic Plans and Assessing Demand for Welsh Medium Education (Wales) Regulations 2013 as part of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.</p> <p>Cymraeg 2050: A Million Welsh Speakers</p>
<b>Consultation:</b>	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	<p>It is recommended that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Council adopts the amended Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2017-2020</li><li>2) Council gives permission to submit the amended WESP 2017-2020 to Welsh Government for its approval.</li></ol>
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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 requires local authorities to produce a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) by 20 December preceding the year in which the plan will have effect for approval by Welsh Ministers. A local authority must then publish its revised plan by no later than 1 June in the year the plan (or revised plan) is to have effect.
- 1.2 The WESP must detail how the local authority will aim to achieve the Welsh Government's outcomes and targets originally outlined in their Welsh Medium Education Strategy.
- 1.3 The WESP must also refer to how the strategic direction of the Welsh Government strategy Cymraeg 2050: A Million Welsh Speakers, will be reflected. There are three themes in the new strategy:
  - Increasing the number of Welsh speakers
  - Increasing the use of Welsh
  - Creating favourable conditions – infrastructure and context.
- 1.4 The Welsh in Education forum for Swansea Council is Partneriaeth Addysg Cymraeg Abertawe (PACA). PACA sits underneath Swansea's overarching partnership for raising standards in schools, the School Improvement Partnership. PACA's membership includes representation from Welsh-medium and English-medium schools, officers from the Council, the universities, Gower College Swansea and other stakeholders that promote the Welsh language locally. PACA has agreed upon, and is responsible for, the targets in this plan, except those concerning school places, which is under the QEd 2020 Programme Board and pre-school provision, which is guided by the Early Years Board and Operational Group, responsible to the Children and Young People Board.
- 1.5 In March 2017, the Minister for Lifelong Learning and the Welsh Language requested a rapid review of the 2017-2020 Welsh in Education Strategic Plans throughout Wales. As a result of this review, changes are required to the WESP before it can be approved by Welsh Government.
- 1.4 A copy of the amended WESP can be found at Appendix A. It is also available in Welsh.

## **2. Statutory Requirements**

- 2.1 Statutory guidance is provided by Welsh Government and outlines seven outcomes that local authorities must report their current position and set targets for. Objectives must be set to outline how these targets will be met.
- 2.2 The seven outcomes that the WESP must include are:
  - More seven-year-old children being taught through the medium of Welsh
  - More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary school to secondary school

- More learners aged 14-16 studying for qualifications through the medium of Welsh
- More learners aged 16-19 studying subjects through the medium of Welsh
- More learners with higher-level Welsh language skills
- Welsh medium provision for learners with additional learning needs (ALN)
- Workforce planning and continuing professional development (CPD)

### **3. Amendments to the Plan**

3.1 The rapid review requested by the Minister for Lifelong Learning involved officers from Swansea Council meeting with Aled Roberts who conducted the review, to discuss the original plan submitted to Welsh Government and provide further detail to some of the statements in the plan.

3.2 In August 2017, the Minister for Lifelong Learning and the Welsh Language wrote to all local authorities to request changes to their plans. The requested amendments to Swansea's WESP were:

- There is a need to set more challenging targets within outcome 1 and not just projections.
- Ensure that the measuring demand survey includes the requirements of the regulations and that the analysis is shared/reported back to the appropriate groups responsible for school management.
- Provide further details of the schools that are within 10% capacity.
- Include any specific proposals for capital investment for Band B.
- Note details for early years development within the County – e.g. childcare pilot.
- Contain numbers as well as percentages where appropriate for data.
- Provide further information if there are plans to increase numbers within Outcome 3 and 4.
- Ensure that the Young People's Social use of Welsh Mapping Framework is used as a basis for working with relevant partners to increase the social use of Welsh, clearly stating what each partners role is.
- Set timetable and objectives to undertake an Additional Learning Needs assessment.
- Need clear objectives for workforce planning and development.

3.3 All of the amendments requested in the letter have been incorporated into the amended plan and are highlighted.

3.4 In order to comply with the statutory requirement to revise the WESP by 20 December each year (also referred to as a monitoring report), the rest of the WESP has been reviewed and updated where appropriate. These updates are highlighted in the amended plan.

#### **4. Consultation Requirements**

- 4.1 The letter from the Minister stated that the local authority was to decide what constitutes fair and open consultation in terms of timescales. It was also advised it is important that all those with an interest in Welsh-medium education have an opportunity to contribute their views.
- 4.2 In order to give all those with an interest in Welsh-medium education an opportunity to contribute their views and in line with the usual process of a revised WESP (monitoring report), Swansea Council began a two-week consultation on 26 September 2017, which concluded on 10 October 2017.
- 4.3 There were 27 responses submitted during the consultation period. A summary of the consultation responses is included in Appendix B.
- 4.4 There have been minor amendments to the WESP resulting from the consultation process.
- 4.5 There were a few requests for clarity on how some of the aims within the plan would be achieved. A work plan will be developed and published alongside the WESP. The work plan will address what actions must be undertaken to achieve the objectives set out in the WESP. This will be updated annually and monitored through PACA.
- 4.6 A large proportion of the consultation responses were in relation to a specific proposal for YGG Tirdeunaw from the 21st Century Schools Programme Band B submission. Additionally, a petition was received regarding YGG Tirdeunaw. The WESP consultation responses have been noted, including the petition, and any proposal regarding YGG Tirdeunaw would be subject to a statutory consultation process. This would give all interested parties an opportunity to share their views on any specific proposal.

#### **5. Approval process and annual monitoring**

- 5.1 The WESP will be submitted to Welsh Government once it has been approved by Council. Welsh Government will then decide if the amended plan is to be approved.
- 5.2 An annual report on progress must be provided to Welsh Government each December for the duration of the plan. This will be published alongside the original WESP.

#### **6. Equality and Engagement Implications**

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening form has been completed with the agreed outcome that a full EIA report is not required.

6.2 Any actions undertaken as a result of the WESP will be subject to EIA screening in their own right, and a full EIA report if required.

6.3 The engagement implications are covered in 4.0.

## **7. Financial Implications**

7.1 Funding for specific Welsh second language activity in the WESP is currently provided through the Education Improvement Grant and is partially match funded. The grant is allocated to the four regions in Wales, not directly to local authorities. The grant must be directed to need.

7.2 Approval and decision to proceed with the spending plan and acceptance or otherwise of funding offered will be subject to agreement annually.

## **8. Legal Implications**

8.1 The statutory requirements are set out in the report. There are no additional legal implications associated with this report.

### **Background Papers:**

- EIA Screening for WESP 2017-2020
- Previous WESPs can be found at [www.swansea.gov.uk/wesp](http://www.swansea.gov.uk/wesp)
- Welsh Government Strategy – Cymraeg 2050: A Million Welsh Speakers and work programme: <http://gov.wales/topics/welshlanguage/welsh-language-strategy-and-policies/cymraeg-2050-welsh-language-strategy/?lang=en>
- Rapid Review of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans 2017-2020 <http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/allsectorpolicies/welshmededuca/rapid-review-of-the-welsh-in-education-strategic-plans/?lang=en>
- School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2013/1/contents/enacted>

### **Appendices:**

- Appendix A Amended Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020 v4.0  
Appendix B Summary of Consultation Responses