

Report of the Cabinet Member for Education

Council - 20 April 2017

WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2020

Purpose:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Council adopts the final Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2017-20202. Council gives permission to submit the final statutory WESP 2017-2020 to Welsh Government for its approval
Policy Framework:	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. The Welsh Medium Education Strategy.
Consultation:	Legal, Finance & Access to Services
Recommendations:	It is recommended that: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Council adopts the final Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-20202) Council permits the submission of the final Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020 to Welsh Government for its approval.
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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 WESP by no later than 1 June in the year the plan (or revised plan) is to have effect.
- 1.2 The City and County of Swansea consulted on and published its first WESP in 2011 on a voluntary basis. The first statutory WESP for 2014-2017 was published in June 2014 and has been revised annually since.

- 1.3 The WESP must detail how the local authority will aim to achieve the Welsh Government's outcomes and targets outlined in the current national Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The strategy's stated vision is to:
'have an education and training system that responds in a planned way to the growing demand for Welsh-medium education, reaches out to and reflects our diverse communities and enables an increase in the number of people of all ages and backgrounds who are fluent in Welsh and able to use the language with their families, in their communities and in the workplace'.
- 1.4 The WESP must also make reference to how the proposed strategic direction of the Welsh Government draft strategy: a million Welsh speakers by 2020 will be reflected in both the forums and the plans.
- 1.5 The Welsh in Education forum for City and County of Swansea is Partneriaeth Addysg Cymraeg Abertawe (PACA). It comprises headteacher representatives from Welsh-medium and English-medium primary secondary schools, officers of the local authority and other stakeholders, including college and university representatives. PACA sits underneath Swansea's overarching partnership for raising standards in schools, the School Improvement Partnership. 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.
- 1.6 A copy of the 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 plan focuses on the five outcomes of the Welsh-medium Education Strategy 2010:
- More seven-year-old children being taught through the medium of Welsh
 - More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary 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

In addition, the following two outcomes must be included:

- Welsh medium provision for learners with additional learning needs (ALN)
- Workforce planning and continuing professional development (CPD)

Standards of attainment in Welsh and Welsh Second Language must also be included in this plan.

- 2.3 Local authorities are required to provide short statements against each of the following to show how they will be embedded in the plan to ensure alignment with delivery of Welsh Government priorities:
- Rewriting the Future: raising ambition and attainment in Welsh schools
 - Successful Futures
 - Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

3. Consultation requirements

- 3.1 The Welsh in Education Strategic Plans and Assessing Demand for Welsh Medium Education (Wales) Regulations 2013 state that a local authority must consult on the plan in draft for a period of not less than eight weeks. A list of required consultees is specified in the regulations.
- 3.2 The City and County of Swansea began consultation on the WESP on 9 December 2016, after Cabinet approved the draft for submission to Welsh Government. The consultation concluded on 17 February 2017. In addition to the main consultation, the vision was discussed in the Pupil Voice Forum on 25 January 2017.
- 3.3 There were 13 responses submitted from the main consultation. An additional two were received after the consultation had finished. A summary of the consultation responses can be found in Appendix B.
- 3.4 The draft version of the WESP has been amended and updated, taking note of the consultation responses. This does not constitute a major revision.

4. Approval process and annual monitoring

- 4.1 The draft WESP was submitted to Welsh Government by 20 December 2016. Welsh Government will write to local authorities with their decisions in respect of Welsh in Education Strategic Plans 2017-2020 once final post-consultation versions of the plan have been received.
- 4.2 The final WESP will need to be adopted by Council in April 2017 in order that it can become policy.
- 4.3 The WESP will become operational from 1 April 2017 and must be published by 1 June 2017. 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.

5. Equality and engagement implications

- 5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening form has been completed with the agreed outcome that a full EIA report was not required. The full EIA report will be drafted once the locations of the potential settings are decided upon.
- 5.2 Any actions undertaken as a result of the WESP will be subject to a further EIA screening and a full EIA report if required.
- 5.3 The engagement implications are covered in paragraph 3 of this report.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 The exact quantum for 2017-2018 will not be known until a grant offer is made to the region and apportioned to each local authority.
- 6.3 Approval and decision to proceed with the spending plan and acceptance or otherwise of funding offered will be subject to agreement annually.

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 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
- The Welsh Medium Education Strategy and policy statement for 2015-2016 <http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/welshmededstrat/?lang=en>
- Welsh Government Consultation on a Welsh Government draft strategy: a million Welsh speakers by 2050 <http://gov.wales/consultations/welshlanguage/welsh-language-strategy-consultation/?lang=en>
- School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2013/1/contents/enacted>

Appendices:

- Appendix A – Final Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020 v3.0
- Appendix B – Summary of Consultation Responses