

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

**CABINET EXECUTIVE
22nd November 2016**

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Arwel Jones
Portfolio Holder for Education

SUBJECT: Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2017-20

REPORT FOR: Decision

Summary

The purpose of this report is to request Cabinet approval to carry out consultation on the authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan for 2017-20, in-line with the requirements of The Welsh in Education Strategic Plans and Assessing Demand for Welsh Medium Education (Wales) Regulations 2013.

The report is supported by the following appendices:

Appendix A – Welsh in Education Strategic Plan for 2017-20

Background

In January 2013, the National Assembly passed the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act, which included a statutory requirement for all local authorities to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) detailing how it would contribute to achieving the outcomes and targets set out in the Welsh Government's Welsh-medium Education Strategy, and requiring local authorities to submit their WESPs to the Welsh Ministers for approval.

Following submission to Welsh Government, the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 states that Ministers may:

- Approve the Plan as submitted;
- Approve the Plan with modifications; or
- Reject the Plan and prepare another one

The requirements in terms of the content of the WESP is set out in The Welsh in Education Strategic Plans and Assessing Demand for Welsh Medium Education (Wales) Regulations 2013.

Powys' first statutory WESP for 2014-17 was approved by Cabinet in May 2014 and by the Welsh Government in June 2014. Work on implementation of the WESP commenced in 2014, and a report outlining the progress made has been submitted to the Welsh Government annually.

The WESP for 2014-17 is now coming to an end, and therefore all local authorities are required to prepare new WESPs for the period 2017-20.

A guidance document outlining the requirements for the new WESP was received from the Welsh Government during August, and the new WESP for 2017-20 has been prepared in line with this guidance.

The Welsh Government has also recently carried out consultation on a new strategy to achieve a million Welsh speakers by the year 2050. It is acknowledged that the development of Welsh-medium education will be a key aspect of the authority's contribution towards achieving this aim. Whilst the final strategy is not expected to be in place until April 2017, the guidance document received from the Welsh Government indicated an expectation that the WESP for 2017-20 refers to this strategy.

Welsh-medium Education Forum

Progress on the WESP will be monitored by the authority's Welsh-medium Education Forum, which meets on a termly basis.

A draft WESP was considered by the authority's Welsh-medium Education Forum on the 2nd November 2016.

Consultation

The Regulations include a requirement for local authorities to carry out consultation on their draft plan for a period of not less than eight weeks.

Consultation will commence before the end of November, and will continue until the end of January. The consultation exercise will be carried out in line with the requirements of the Regulations.

Following consultation, an updated version of the WESP will be considered by the Welsh-medium Education Forum, before being presented to Cabinet for final approval.

Proposal

That Cabinet approves the commencement of consultation on the authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan for 2017-20, in line with the requirements of The Welsh in Education Strategic Plans and Assessing Demand for Welsh Medium Education (Wales) Regulations 2013.

One Powys Plan

N/A

Options considered/available

N/A

Preferred Choice and Reasons

N/A

Sustainability and Environmental Issues/Equalities/Crime and Disorder,/Welsh Language/Other Policies etc

The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan outlines the authority's priorities for developing Welsh-medium education during the period 2017-20.

Children and Young People's Impact Statement - Safeguarding and Wellbeing

N/A

Local Member(s)

N/A

Other Front Line Services

N/A

Support Services (Legal, Finance, Corporate Property, HR, ICT, Business Services)

The Corporate Solicitor comments as follows: Legal Services will continue to support the Plan to ensure compliance with relevant legislation.

The Finance Business Partner comments as follows: Finance notes the contents of the report.

HR: The Schools HR Team will advise headteachers, managers and governors in relation to any staffing issues in line with the schools' policies and in consultation with the relevant Trade Unions.

Public Service Board/Partnerships/Stakeholders etc

N/A

Corporate Communications

Communications Comment: The report is of public interest and requires use of news release and appropriate social media to publicise the report.

Statutory Officers

The **Strategic Director Resources (Section 151 Officer)** notes the comments made by finance.

The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) has commented as follows: “I note the legal comment and have nothing to add to the report.”

Members’ Interests

The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If Members have an interest they should declare it at the start of the meeting and complete the relevant notification form.

Recommendations:	Reason for Recommendations:
To approve the commencement of consultation on the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan for 2017-20, in line with the requirements of The Welsh in Education Strategic Plans and Assessing Demand for Welsh Medium Education (Wales) Regulations 2013	To meet the statutory requirement to prepare a new Welsh in Education Strategic Plan every three years.

Relevant Policy (ies):			
Within Policy:	Y	Within Budget:	Y

Relevant Local Member(s):	N/A
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Person(s) To Implement Decision:	Marianne Evans
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	End of November 2016

Contact Officer Name:	Tel:	Fax:	Email:
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Background Papers used to prepare Report: