

**CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.**

**CABINET EXECUTIVE**  
**7<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

**REPORT AUTHOR:** County Councillor Myfanwy Alexander  
Portfolio Holder for Education and Welsh Language

**SUBJECT:** Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2017 - 2020

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**REPORT FOR:** Decision

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**1. Summary**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2017 – 2020, for submission to the Welsh Government.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017- 2020
- Appendix 2 – Feedback letter from Welsh Government July 2017

**2. Proposal**

2.1 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 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.

2.2 On 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017, Cabinet approved a new WESP for 2017 – 2020 for submission to Welsh Government. 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

2.3 Feedback was received from the Welsh Government (attached as Appendix 2) on the 4<sup>th</sup> August 2017, which invited the authority to submit an amended plan to address recommendations from the Welsh Government.

- 2.4 An amended WESP was prepared to address the recommendations. This was considered and supported by members of the Welsh Language Education Forum. The attached WESP at Appendix 1 highlights those areas that have been amended.

### **3. Impact Assessment**

- 3.1 Is an impact assessment required? No
- 3.2 If yes is it attached?

### **4. Corporate Improvement Plan**

- 4.1 Every local authority has a statutory obligation to prepare a WESP and manage and plan school places. The Plan links to the authority's Vision 2025 Corporate Improvement Plan priority for Learning and Skills, which states that pupils in Powys should have access to education provision that is equitable and access to high quality teaching and learning environments.

### **5. Local Member(s)**

- 5.1 All local members

### **6. Other Front Line Services**

Does the recommendation impact on other services run by the Council or on behalf of the Council? Yes

In order to implement some of the targets within the WESP, it is necessary to seek support from a number of services, including schools service, HR, finance, legal, governor support, property, ICT and communications. Dependent on the nature of the change proposed, it may be necessary to seek additional support within these service areas from time to time – a resource plan has been developed.

### **7. Communications**

Have Communications seen a copy of this report? Yes

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

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

- 8.1 Legal: The recommendations can be supported from a legal point of view
- 8.2 Finance – The Schools Finance Manager notes the contents of the report. Any actions arising from the plan will be implemented within the current funding envelope of the Schools Service.
- 8.3 Corporate Property (if appropriate)
- 8.4 HR (if appropriate)
- 8.5 ICT (if appropriate)

**9. Scrutiny**

Has this report been scrutinised? No

If Yes what version or date of report has been scrutinised?

- 9.1 Given that the amendments to the WESP follow Welsh Government recommendations, Scrutiny is planning to be briefed on the changes to the earlier submitted WESP.

**10. Statutory Officers**

The Head of Financial Services (Acting 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."

**11. 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.

<b>Recommendation:</b>	<b>Reason for Recommendation:</b>
To approve the authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017 – 2020 for submission to Welsh Government.	To meet the statutory requirement to prepare a new Welsh in Education Strategic Plan every three years.

<b>Relevant Policy (ies):</b>	Plans for Powys Schools – Vision 2025 & 21 <sup>st</sup> C Schools Programme Band B 2019 - 2024		
<b>Within Policy:</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Within Budget:</b>	<b>Y</b>

<b>Relevant Local Member(s):</b>	<b>All local members</b>
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<b>Person(s) To Implement Decision:</b>	<b>Marianne Evans</b>
<b>Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> November 2017</b>

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**Background Papers used to prepare Report:**