

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET EXECUTIVE

14th March 2017

**REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Arwel Jones
Portfolio Holder for Education**

SUBJECT: Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)

REPORT FOR: Decision

Summary

Further to the decision made by Cabinet on the 22nd November 2016, consultation has been carried out on the authority's draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 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 Plan has been updated to take account of the responses received during the consultation period.

This report requests Cabinet approval of the updated Plan, for submission to Welsh Government.

The report is supported by the following appendix:

Appendix A – Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-20

Appendix B – Consultation responses

Background

Consultation

Further to the decision made by Cabinet on the 22nd November 2016, consultation on the authority's draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for 2017-20 was carried out between the 23rd November 2016 and the 25th January 2017.

39 responses were received to the consultation. Copies of all consultation responses received are provided in Appendix B.

Detailed responses were received from the following organisations and individuals:

- The Welsh Language Commissioner
- RhAG (Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg / Parents for Welsh-medium Education)

- Mid Powys branch of RhAG (Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg / Parents for Welsh-medium Education)
- Mudiad Meithrin
- Mudiad Addysg Gymraeg Gogledd Ddwyrain Powys / North East Powys Welsh-medium Education Movement
- Menter Brycheiniog a Maesyfed
- Menter Maldwyn
- Powys branch of Cymdeithas yr Iaith (The Welsh Language Society)
- The Governing Body of Ysgol Gymraeg Dyffryn y Glowyr
- County Councillor Sandra Davies
- Tamsin Cathan Davies

The remaining 27 responses were received from individuals from all over Powys.

14 of the responses related to the ongoing proposal to close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School. These are included in Appendix B, however the issues raised in these responses have been addressed as part of the school reorganisation process in relation to the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School which is ongoing in-line with the School Organisation Code (2013).

Welsh-medium Education Forum

As stated in the draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan for 2017-20, the Objectives outlined within the Plan will be monitored by the council's Welsh-medium Education Forum.

Work is currently ongoing to agree a new terms of reference for the Welsh-medium Education Forum, and to clarify links between the Forum and other groups which consider issues relating to the Welsh language. A further report outlining revised terms of reference for each of these groups and the relationship between them will be presented to the Portfolio Holder for approval.

Proposal

The proposal to Cabinet is as follows:

- i) To approve the post-consultation version of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for 2017-20 in Appendix, 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

Should the Welsh Ministers require the authority to do further work on the Plan, any revised versions will be presented back to Cabinet for approval.

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)

Finance: The Schools Finance Manager notes the contents of the report, it is essential that any changes arising from the objectives with the plan are costed at the earliest opportunity to ensure affordability within budgets available.

Legal: The recommendation can be supported from a legal point of view.

Local Service Board/Partnerships/Stakeholders etc

N/A

Corporate Communications

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

Statutory Officers

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

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

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.

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
To approve the post-consultation version of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for 2017-20 in Appendix A, for submission to Welsh Government.	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):	All members
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Person(s) To Implement Decision:	Marianne Evans
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	End of March 2017

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Background Papers used to prepare Report: