

SUBJECT:	Consultation on Monmouthshire's Draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014 -2017
MEETING:	COUNCIL
DATE:	27.01.14
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	All

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To consult with Council on Monmouthshire's draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2014 -2017.

The WESP details how Monmouthshire plans to support; develop and secure Welsh language provision in schools and wider communities and how we plan for future growth. The plan reflects the objectives set out in the Government's Welsh-Medium Education Strategy.

The WESP 2014 -2017 has been developed in partnership with the local authorities in SEWC. The plan is in draft form until the consultation period ends on 31st March 2014.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To receive this report as part of the statutory consultation process.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 The Welsh Government expects local authorities to work towards:
- increasing the number of seven-year-old children being taught through the medium of Welsh. Numbers have increased across the region and are provisionally projected to increase within Monmouthshire over the next three years;
 - continuing to improve learners language skills on transfer from primary school to secondary school;
 - increasing the number of 14-19 learners studying qualifications through the medium of Welsh;
 - increasing the number of learners with higher skills in Welsh;
 - providing welsh-medium support for learners with Additional Learning Needs; and
 - providing a range of continuous professional development for practitioners and putting strategies in place to attract suitable candidates to the region with good quality Welsh skills.

4. REASONS:

- 4.1 It is a statutory requirement from 2014 that local authorities consult on the WESP submission to Welsh Government.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 Until the plan and options have been approved the resource implications cannot be determined but further updates will follow as part of any option appraisals.

6. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:

The significant equality impacts identified in the assessment (Appendix 1) are summarised below for members' consideration:

The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan will ensure that Monmouthshire is able to support, develop and secure Welsh language provision in schools and wider communities.

The actual impacts from this report's recommendations will be reviewed annually and criteria for monitoring and review will include:

- The number of seven-year olds being taught through the medium of Welsh
- The number of learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary school to secondary school.
- The number of learners aged 14 -19 studying for qualifications through the medium of Welsh
- The number of learners with higher skills in Welsh
- The range of Welsh-medium provision for learners with Additional Learning Needs
- The number of vacancies for practitioners to deliver Welsh-medium provision across the region.

7. CONSULTEES:

- neighbouring local authorities
- the head teacher of each school maintained by the LA
- the governing body of each school maintained by the LA
- each institution within the further education sector in the area
- in relation to any foundation or voluntary school in the area –
- the person who appoints the foundation governors
- if the school has a religious character, the appropriate religious body
- the Welsh Language Commissioner
- the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership
- school councils
- Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales

- organisations providing services to children and young people as the local authority considers appropriate
- other persons or bodies as appear to the local authority to be appropriate.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

- Welsh-Medium Education Strategy
- Welsh in Education Grant 2014 -15

9. AUTHOR:

Sharon Randall-Smith

10. CONTACT DETAILS:

Tel: 01633 644203

E-mail: SharonRandall-Smith@monmouthshire.gov.uk